Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Quadripartite Arab Meeting Planned in Baghdad

LD1001144591 Rabat MAP in English 1305 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, Jan. 10 (MAP)—A quadripartite Arab summit gathering Iraq, Palestine, Yemen and Jordan will be held in Baghdad next week, the QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported quoting reliable sources here. The summit will review the latest developments of the Gulf crisis, the same sources said.

UMA Affirms Solidarity With Iraqi People

Consultative Council Statement

LD1001145591 Rabat MAP in English 1258 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, Jan. 10 (MAP)—The Maghreban Consultative Council, the parliamentary body stemming from the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), voiced concern over the situation in the Gulf and expressed utter solidarity with the Iraqi people in the event of a military aggression.

The council which adopted at the end of its second three-day session here Wednesday a motion on the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue, voiced appreciation for the efforts made by the UMA and more especially by President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria to seek a peaceful way out to the crisis, in an Arab framework and without any foreign intervention.

For the council, the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf region is not meant to defend Kuwait and other Gulf countries but rather to materialize the US strategy seeking to control oil fields and Arab resources and to destroy Iraq's military and technological assets that are "an acquisition" for the whole Arab nation.

The council which rejects the settlement of disputes through force equally rejects the use of two sets of rules when tackling international issues, the motion said. The UMA council equally rejects the starvation policy imposed on Iraq as "an unprecedented inhuman act" in the history of the international community.

The council voices utter solidarity with the Iraqi people in the event of a military aggression and calls the Arab nation to shoulder its historical responsibility in this serious juncture and to seek an Arab peaceful settlement likely to avert a devastating war and safeguard the rights of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples.

The council urges all UMA bodies to carry on efforts to contribute to defuse the Gulf crisis and to thwart the plots against the Arab nation.

Relatedly, Algerian president said Wednesday while receiving the members of the consultative council that "the Gulf crisis was positively evolving in the context of efforts conducted discreetly".

"I am not referring to the Geneva meeting between the US and Iraqi foreign ministers James Baker and Tariq 'Aziz, but to other efforts, exerted discreetly", President Chadli said.

He said, "As Maghrebans, we conducted a mediation move and we shall carry on efforts in an attempt to convince all parties to avoid a war that would harm the Arab nation's interests, renown and economy".

Referring to his recent tour in the Middle East, Europe and the Maghreb, Bendjedid said the tour was very useful for it enabled him to "have a clear idea on this very complex problem".

In another development, Algerian news agency, APS, reported that Luxembourg foreign minister said Wednesday that the ECC had proposed a meeting with Tariq 'Aziz. APS said the meeting whose date was not set yet might take place in Algiers.

Further on Statement

LD1001212491 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, Ay Annar [Jan] 10, Arab Maghreb Union Pool, JANA—The Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] Shura Council has concluded its meetings of its 2nd regular session held in Algiers endorsing the recommendations of the specialized countries.

The Algerian News Agency has said that the council has endorsed the recommendations of the political committee stressing the necessity of promoting the fraternal solidarity among the nations of the Union in facing up to any aggression continuing in supporting the Afro-Arab solidarity especially with neighbourly countries.

The council also endorsed the recommendation of this committee stressing the speeding up of choosing the headquarters of the Union commissions especially the general secretariat and the endorsing of the budget of the Shura Council, expanding the spheres of the unionist work conducted jointly at all levels with the expansion of the specialisms of the council promoting it, so much so to make it enjoy the power of legislature in the union.

Speaking of the Palestinian question and the crisis of Kuwait, the Council has reiterated its condemnation of the operations of Soviet Jewish migration to Palestine denouncing the imperialist-Zionist role in implementing this scheme obstructing the resolutions of the international community aiming at punishing the Zionist enemy reaching a permanent and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question.

The Council stressed the necessity of providing the material, moral and political support to the ongoing people's revolution in Palestine.

On endorsing the directives of the political committee, the Council has expressed its anxiety over the development of the Kuwait crisis maintaining that the presence

of the imperialist troops in the region represented an embodiment of the colonialist strategy in occupying the Arab oil wells. It also rejected starving the Iraqi people calling on the Arab nation to shoulder its historic responsibility to reach an Arab peaceful solution to this crisis.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Meetings Continue in Baghdad

Arrivals Reported

JN0701073491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 Jan 91

[All names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—Islamic, intellectual, political, and scientific personalities have begun arriving in Baghdad to participate in the three-day international Islamic conference scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh delegation arrived in Baghdad today, and includes a number Islamic personalities, namely Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Atin, head of the Muslims' society; Major Muhammad Isfir, head of the Bangladesh Mujahidin; and Hafiz Mawlana Dhakir, secretary general of the Bangladesh sunnis society.

The Indian delegation also arrived in Baghdad today. It includes Muhammd Afdal, member of the Indian Parliament; Dr. Sayyid Husayn Ahmad, chairman of the higher council for Islamic solidarity; Waqar al-Din, chairman of the Indian-Arab friendship society; Muhammad Yunis Siddiqi, head of the Muslim students and youths in all India; Shaykh Ghulam 'Abd-al-Qadir al-'Alawi and Qadiri, deputy chairman of the society for communicating the prophet's tradition; and Shaykh Muhammad Warith Jamal al-Qadiri, chairman of the society for communicating the prophet's tradition in Bombay.

The two delegation were received at the airport by the assistant secretary general of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization.

Delegates Warn of Anti-U.S. Attacks

NC1001231691 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 10 (AFP)—Muslim delegates to an Islamic conference here have warned of anti-American attacks if U.S. forces take military action against Iraq.

"American interests in the Maghreb and Europe will be the target of different Islamic groups in the event of aggression against Iraq," said the vice-president of the Algerian Salvation Front, Aboul Amin Ben Azzoun Zebda.

He said his movement had warned the U.S. embassy in Algiers and mobilised the Algerian Salvation Front to prepare to "punish the American imperialists and their agents among the traitors of the Arab nation."

His remarks were carried by Al-Jumhuriyah newspaper on the second day of a three-day meeting of Muslim scholars and theologians organised by the Popular Islamic Conference, a group set up in 1982 to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The meeting is being attended by representatives from Islamic countries and movements aligned with Iraq in its confrontation with the West in the current Gulf crisis.

Al-Jumhuriyah also quoted Jordan's Religious Affairs Minister Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani as urging Muslims "wherever they are to be ready to destroy American interests in case of aggression against Iraq."

"The hour of the Jihad (holy war) is closer," he vowed.

The president of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, declared that Palestinians would fight alongside Iraqi troops.

"The world will become the theater of operations targeting American interests," he warned.

Further on Warnings

JN1101112791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—A number of Islamic intellectual and political figures and scientists taking part in the World Islamic Conference have warned the United States that the region will turn into a volcano that will destroy the U.S. and Zionist presence, interests, and positions if they try to stage aggression against Iraq.

In statements to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, they stressed that the United States must realize that if it carries out its evil military aggression against Iraq, it will find barricades of faithful, militant [mujahidin] men reaching for its interests and positions in the world to destroy them.

Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Kafrawi, preacher of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and member of the Higher Islamic Committee in occupied Palestine, said the U.S. Administration will be mistaken if it thinks it can get away safely in the event of staging aggression against Iraq. He pointed out that the U.S. troops will be destroyed, that the U.S. soldiers will die on the land of the Arabian Peninsula, and that the U.S. interests all over the Arab region and the world will be destroyed. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Muhammad Shukri, leader of the opposition Labor Socialist Party in Egypt, warned that there is an army of Egyptian Muslims and mujahidin who will forcefully strike at the U.S. interests and the Arabs and Europeans who collude with it [the United States] if aggression against Iraq starts.

He said: Our Arab people in Egypt have realized clearly who is trying to kill their brothers in Arabism and Islam. They have also realized that there is a battle between

soldiers led by Bush and Arab and Muslim armies led by Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Second Session Ends

LD1001232291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Mecca, 10 Jan (SPA)—The Executive Council of the popular Islamic conference ended its second session, held this morning at the headquarters of the world Islamic League in Mecca and chaired by Dr Moussa Moussawi.

Sirdar Abdul Qayyoum spoke at the beginning of the session. He stressed the importance of the gathering in the shadow of the grave events that resulted from Iraqi aggression against the state of Kuwait. He said he was astonished at Saddam Husayn's utterances; namely that he occupied Kuwait in order to liberate Palestine. He asked: How can the occupying Kuwait and antagonizing the Kingdom lead to the liberation of Palestine? [passage omitted]

The secretary general of the Islamic societies in South Asia, who is the secretary general of the all-India society of Ahl al-Hadith pointed out that many Muslims have been duped by Saddam Husayn's claim that he belonged to Islam and underlined that this claim is false and untrue, explaining that Saddam Husayn violated the Islamic shari'a [law]. He stressed the need for all Muslims to stand against these challenges. [passage omitted]

The representative of the Syrian Kurds, Dr. Mustafa Mussallam Muhammad followed. He pointed out the gravity of conditions in the area. He said that Saddam Husayn's black history and his disgraceful behavior since assuming power in Iraq affirmed that the head of the Iraqi regime is a coward and will withdraw when he senses the danger. He said that, if he withdrew, then he should not remain because he does not respect any covenant. He said that conditions will not abate in the area until Saddam Husayn is removed from office.

Mecca Conference Declares Baghdad Meet Unlawful

LD1101145991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1348 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mecca, 11 Jan (SPA)—The Executive Committee of the Islamic Popular Conference issued a statement today in which it declared its complete and absolute disavowal of anything that may emanate from the meeting which is being held in Baghdad under the title of the Islamic Popular Conference.

In its statement, the committee said: That meeting is unlawful and inappropriate procedurally and legally, as the majority of the members of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Popular Conference are outside Iraq. They have not been consulted on the convening of the conference, nor have they agreed to it. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Radio Asserts Geneva Talks 'Just The Beginning'

LD1001201791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Dear brothers, the three rounds of talks which lasted over six hours were not needed just in order to hand a letter from U.S. President George Bush to his Iraqi counterpart, President Saddam Husayn, which the Iraqi minister refused to take. The duration of the discussions between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker clearly indicated that the war of words which preceded the meeting was intended for the consumption of the television cameras and the newspapers, and that the meeting was not held just to convey another U.S. warning to Iraq.

Regardless of what was said after the talks, much has not yet been said, and it seems that the secret diplomacy between the U.S. and Iraqi sides has resulted in the acceptance of the principle of negotiations between the two sides. There is no doubt that Baker and 'Aziz have put their cards on the table—and let us not forget in this respect that the U.S. secretary of state was speaking on behalf of all the states allied with his country in the Gulf.

Contrary to what we have heard from Washington in the past few months, to the effect that there was nothing to negotiate, yesterday's talks proved that there was much that could be negotiated. The truth is that there are in the region matters which should be discussed.

We cannot pass judgment on what happened in Geneva on the basis of the statements made by Baker, which announced the failure of the meeting. According to the U.S. viewpoint, the failure is due to Iraq's refusal to respond favorably to the U.S. desires. What is needed for peace is the ability to find a compromise between the two sides. The Iraqi foreign minister clarified Iraq's position, based on the importance of not allowing a division of international legitimacy, particularly with regard to the linkage of the area's problems.

The surprise arrival in Geneva of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, was to demonstrate Iraq's seriousness and determination in stressing the need for the United States to deal with international legitimacy as an indivisible and integral part. The important thing now is the next diplomatic move. We have heard about a French-Arab initiative and about the visit which the UN secretary general intends to pay to Baghdad, in addition to the EC proposal to hold an Iraqi-European meeting in Algiers.

The Geneva talks have established the principle of negotiations between Baghdad and Washington, and the European states can act with greater freedom in collaboration with the United States and the Arab states with a view to reaching a compromise. If Tariq 'Aziz has met Baker, what is preventing a meeting between 'Aziz and his Saudi counterpart?

After Geneva, the states of the world should not content themselves with analyzing the results of the 'Aziz-Baker meeting or to just wait for 15 January. What is needed now is an intensification of diplomatic activity at all levels. One month after Washington declared that it would not negotiate with Iraq, we did not expect Baker to say after the meeting that he had held negotiations or discussions with the Iraqi side. We must stress that Geneva was just the beginning.

Qaddumi To Visit Paris; Urges Pressure on Bush

LD1001201991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], the head of the PLO Political Department, said in Geneva today that Iraq is looking for a peaceful solution and that it hopes to see the dialogue with the United States continue. He also revealed that he is going to meet with French Foreign Minister Dumas in Paris tomorrow. He added that the EC in general, and France in its capacity as permanent member of the UN Security Council in particular, could still act to avert a war in the Gulf by persuading Washington to make concessions.

Qaddumi also said that President Mitterrand had to put more pressure on U.S. President Bush. He went on to say that in his opinion a French-Arab initiative is still possible six days before the deadline fixed by the United Nations. He indicated that the PLO is trying to arrange a meeting between the Arab states on the Gulf crisis in the next few days.

'Arafat Urges French Efforts on Palestine Issue

LD1001212591 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] In the view of PLO leaders, the failure of the meeting in Geneva yesterday is due to, I quote, the obstinacy of the U.S. Administration. In an exclusive interview for Veronique Tagaux, our special correspondent in Tunis, Yasir 'Arafat asked France to continue its efforts for a settlement of the Palestinian question:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat, in English with superimposed French translation] In my opinion, Geneva has not been a failure, because it is merely a start. If we want to achieve peace, we must open a dialogue and negotiations. Everything cannot be settled in one single meeting. The Palestinian cause is at the root of all the problems facing the Middle East. There will be neither stability nor security, political settlement, or peace if the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinians continue to be ignored. We are not asking for the moon. We are merely asking for the observance of international law. Bush insists on the implementation of the letter of the United Nations. He must remember that the United Nations Organization has given a majority approval to holding an international conference aimed at solving the Palestinian question. For this reason, we have very much appreciated what President Mitterrand said yesterday. He has relaunched the peace process.

[Tagaux] What do you expect now from France?

['Arafat] Now? To push forward and deploy all means at its disposal so that we work together in order to avoid war and catastrophe. [end recording]

'Arafat Sends Message to Assisi Peace Forum

LD1001235191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jan 91

["Text" of message from Yasir 'Arafat (Abu 'Ammar) president of Palestine, to peace meeting participants in Assisi—read by announcer; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The brother leader president Abu-'Ammar, president of the state of Palestine, has sent a message to the participants in the peace meeting held every year in the Italian town of Assisi. The meeting is attended by religious figures and representatives of committees of peace and solidarity from various parts of the world. The message sent by the brother leader president was read out to the conference by Bishop Capucci. Also present at the conference were the mayor of Assisi, bishops, and other religious figures. Here follows the text of the message sent by the brother leader president Abu-'Ammar:

On behalf of the Palestinian people and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name, it is my pleasure to present to you all my warmest greetings. I hope that our new year 1991 will be a year of peace for all mankind, and that the justice, fraternity, unity, and love preached by all religions and in which all creeds believe will prevail in the world.

Peace for the Palestinian people is not a mere desire or wish; it is part of our heritage, and the name of Palestine is synonymous with peace because it is the holy land of the three religions, and Jerusalem, its capital, is a model of coexistence and fraternity, where the Christian prayed alongside the Muslim or the Jew to the one God who created us all in his own image, and chose from among us those who were the best of his creatures. He taught us that man who does not love his brother man does not love God his creator.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have all undoubtedly been following the amount of suffering and injustice which has befallen the Palestinian people for more than 40 years, during which the largest proportion of our people were thrown out of their homeland. Today, those who stay in the homeland live under the most abominable forms of occupation. We were and still are subjected to all kinds of violations of the law and international legitimacy, such as deportation, the destruction of homes, the burning of crops, the imprisonment of thousands without trial, the closure of universities and schools, and the deliberate killing of Palestinians for being Palestinians, be they Muslim or Christian. All this is happening before the world while we are approaching

the end of the 20th century, and pictures show the Israeli occupation forces or the settlers opening fire on women and children, breaking their bones, or attacking the sons of our people in the places of worship, the mosques and the churches.

You will remember, gentlemen, that despite our tragedy we have been for many years the victims of a widescale media campaign which portrayed the Palestinians as terrorists or that we were the side who refused negotiations and peace.

The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people, which I have the honor to lead, has demonstrated through struggle and sacrifices and through clear policies that we are struggling for the recovery of the just and national rights of our people, and for the establishment of peaceful coexistence in the region.

In a complete national consensus, our people expressed their peaceful will and their certain desire to achieve peace based on justice and the implementation of the international charters and the UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue. The people translated this will with an historic peace initiative which was welcomed and backed by the international community and all the justice- and peace-loving forces.

The popular uprising waged by our people to liberate themselves from the Israeli occupation, with its democratic and peaceful characteristics and with its style of a general action by the masses, has and is still facing the most brutal forms of violence and repression by the Israeli occupation authorities. This has led to the death of 1,400 martyrs and the wounding of about 38,000 others, 8,000 of them disabled and 7,000 cases of miscarriage, in addition to over 92,000 others detained in horrible prisons and concentration camps.

Perhaps, like us, you wonder why the international community did not implement the sanctions specified in the UN charter against Israel to force it to stop its violations of international law and its defiance of the UN resolutions? Moreover, why did the UN not implement its resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue?

Regrettably, I must say what you all know, namely that the United States—the superpower which effectively participated in legislating the people's rights to self determination—was the one who armed, financed and protected the Israeli occupation and expansion and was the one who continued the policy of obstructing the fulfillment of right and establishment of justice for our people.

Now gentlemen, facing this highly explosive situation in the Gulf region, we have hastened since the beginning of the crisis and until now to move toward a peaceful Arab solution to be implemented under the international umbrella to remove the military option from the Gulf crisis and to avoid a war whose tragic effect—if it happens, God forbid—will include the whole region and the whole world, especially the mediterranean basin and Europe.

That is why we called for negotiations and dialogue, away from the drums of war, on the basis of using one standard in dealing with international legitimacy as an indivisible unit whose resolutions on the region should all be completely implemented with the same firmness, seriousness and strictness whether in the Gulf, Palestine or the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: We have been looking forward to a vital role to be played by Europe, especially after the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the democratic changes in Eastern Europe, which gave the EEC countries more weight in international politics. Europe could take the initiative of making the UN Security Council adopt an international resolution which would deal with all the problems of our region by drawing up the aims and steps toward a just peace and by imposing the sanctions specified in the international laws against any side which rejects peace, whatever that side might be.

In conclusion, allow me, gentlemen and friends, to address to every one of you, and through you to the friendly Italian people, our sincere gratitude for and appreciation of your support and solidarity. I would like to assure you that injustice and oppression, however high the Israeli rulers might escalate them, wil never make us stop believing in peace and working for it until Palestine returns, as it has always been, as the land of coexistence and the land of peace.

Glory be to God in Heaven, peace be on earth and happiness be to people. With sincere greetings.

Khalaf Discusses Gulf Crisis, Peace Conference

JN0701104591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jan 91 p 6

[By Hanan al-Masri]

[Text] Jordan and the Palestinian people have lived a week of celebrations marking the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution and the fourth year of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory.

On both these occasions, AL-RA'Y interviewed Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, who came to Amman to join the Jordanian and Palestinian people in these celebrations.

Abu-Iyad began the interview by reviewing the progress of the Palestinian revolution, the accomplishments of the intifadah, and the difficult circumstances experienced by the Arab nation in the present Gulf crisis. He said: The anniversary of the Palestinian revolution has come at a time when we are going through a delicate phase of the Gulf crisis and when our Arab people everywhere are living in a war atmosphere.

Still, this has not blurred the clear fact that the Arab masses have been looking forward to this day, because

"Fatah Day" is a day for all the Arabs and "Intifadah Day" is a day for all free men in the world.

This revolution, which has emerged from the minefields strong and steadfast in its principles and enjoying the love and appreciation of the masses, is a revolution which has succeeded in asserting itself and imposing its cause on the world community as a cause of a people who want liberation, a homeland, and the right to self-determination like all nations in this world. It is no longer possible to ignore this cause, especially because the PLO has offered all it can for the sake of peace under the umbrella of international legitimacy.

This day has also come while the heroic intifadah is entering its fourth year, despite the martyrs and detentions. Stones have become an international means by which oppressed peoples express their resentment to injustice. Thus, as some people say, Palestinian stones have become international stones.

As we have noted on revolution day, our people sacrificed their blood in order to defy the occupation authorities and to show that they are an important part of this revolution and that the intifadah is the revolution's striking arm in the occupied territory.

These are the meanings which we have deduced from that day, which is a special day.

I am pleased to participate in these celebrations on Jordanian land. I am also pleased by this Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion, which I hope will continue so that our people can achieve their hopes for the return of Jerusalem, and so that a voice can be heard from the churches and minarets of that holy city calling for unity with Jordan; unity of the one people, one objective, and one march.

[al-Masri] What are the relations among the strike forces inside the occupied territories?

[Khalaf] The relations among the factions which come within the framework of the PLO are positive relations in the context of the democratic atmosphere inside the PLO and the absence of organizational and factional extremism among these factions.

We always extend our hands to all forces within the framework of the PLO irrespective of their doctrines and policies. The organization is for everyone and not only for Fatah. It is for all factions. It is for every religious and political force that functions within the PLO framework and experiences the same climate.

Our enemies are afraid of this unity. They do not distinguish between dealing with these forces and between one faction and another. All are Palestinian when it comes to confronting Israeli belligerence.

[al-Masri] Let us move on to the Gulf crisis and its status. Let us discuss a link between the solution to the Gulf crisis and every other pending issue in the region. Do you, brother Abu-Iyad, believe that convening the international conference for solving the Gulf crisis could achieve the required results, especially after the changes that have taken place inside the Soviet Union and East European countries?

[Khalaf] What has been approved is that the international conference should be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council. The shortened "Geneva" formula between the United States and the Soviet Union is no longer acceptable because this formula excludes the PLO, as well as three countries whose presence is important at this stage.

This conference could come up with solutions to the various pending issues such as Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan Heights, and even Cyprus, on the condition that it be effective, have powers, carry guarantees for success, and not be dissolved after two sessions when everything ends.

As for the Soviet Union, it has not yet changed its stance on the PLO and its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. We do, however, see the dangerous stand it has taken on emigration, which contradicts its political position. We have exerted gigantic efforts with the Soviet Union to stop this emigration. As a result, people have started wondering if the Soviet Union still maintains its earlier position regarding the PLO and the right to self-determination at a time when thousands of emigrants are arriving in Palestine, including scientists, military men, engineers, and doctors.

This is our quarrel with the Soviet Union. It is nonetheless necessary for the Soviets to attend the international conference because despite everything else, they cannot deny their principles. The worries about emigration and its negative effects on our people are enough for us.

[al-Masri] What is the nature of current relations between the PLO and the Gulf states, especially following the Gulf crisis?

[Khalaf] At the beginning of the crisis on 2 August, we called all Arabs to resolve the crisis and to avoid foreign intervention, as this would complicate the situation. We hoped that the summit conference in Cairo would be a chance for an in-depth Arab dialogue to prevent a disaster to the Arab nation's future. Such a disaster would deal a blow to Iraq's power and economy as well as the Saudi economy, and we will thus lose all our capabilities.

Regrettably, the Cairo conference was rushed, and some conferees wanted to condemn Iraq and condone foreign interference in the crisis. This was our position right from the beginning, and we acted in the interest of the Arab nation and Arab solidarity. This was also the position of Jordan, Tunisia, Yemen, Sudan, and Morocco. Our brothers in the Gulf also began to attack this position and adopted a series of material and moral measures as a punishment for us as they imagined.

We are confident that our position is the right one, and it is in the interest of Iraq as well as Saudi Arabia. Consequently, we continue to insist on an Arab solution after which we can seek the help of an international cover.

[al-Masri] What are the chances of a political and military solution to the Gulf crisis?

[Khalaf] We hope that the Geneva meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and Baker will be the beginning of a serious move toward a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and the start of a new horizon toward solving the crisis. I think that if this meeting succeeds, it should be followed by an Iraqi-Saudi meeting that expands into a mini Arab summit that ends with a plenary Arab summit at which the Arabs will draw up all aspects of a solution, taking into account the present opportunity of linking all issues so that the Arabs can solve all pending problems, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, together.

The EC has a role to play and the EC ministers' meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister will present an opportunity for a European contribution toward a political settlement. I do not think the Americans and Europeans can find radical solutions to what happened between Iraq and Kuwait under the so-called Gulf crisis except through basic Arab sides that play a role in this solution.

It is clear, however, from the European and American meetings that the world does not want war but wants peace, because such a war will be destructive not only for Iraq but for other areas in the Gulf: Jordan, Syria, and elsewhere. Therefore, there came this American-European movement which we hope will succeed. Otherwise, war will be the only option and, as I have said, it will be a devastating option.

Leadership Meeting Ends, Reiterates Iraq Support

JN0901135791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1129 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—The Palestinian leadership has reiterated its unlimited solidarity with Iraq and its brave confrontation of the American-Zionist conspiracy aimed at humiliating the Arabs, plundering their wealth, and desecrating the Muslims' sanctities.

At the end of its meetings in Baghdad at dawn today, the Palestinian leadership stressed that the Islamic Palestinian resistance factions, whose ranks are led by the sons of Iraq, will stand in the same faithful trench to defend the honor of Arabism and to liberate the Muslims' sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Palestine from the filth of the covetous invaders.

A responsible source in the Palestinian leadership told INA that the Palestinian leadership has called for pooling Arab and international efforts to achieve a just solution to all the region's linked problems, at the forefront of which is the Palestine question.

The source pointed out that the Palestinian leadership has adopted several measures and recommendations to confront the Zionist escalation aimed at inflaming the region and turn it into a theater for war and aggression, and that the leadership has also approved the appropriate measures to bolster the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied Arab territories and their confrontation of the brutal and criminal practices of the Zionist occupation gangs.

Algeria

Iraq's 'Aziz Reportedly To Meet EEC 12 Jan

LD1101000991 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] It was announced in Algeria that Tariq 'Aziz will pay a visit to Algiers Saturday [12 Jan], during which he will meet a tripartite delegation of the EEC, which includes the current, past, and future EEC chairmen. The EEC has renewed the invitation addressed to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to meet the tripartite delegation, which includes the foreign ministers of Italy, Luxembourg, and Holland. Tariq 'Aziz earlier refused that meeting, stressing that the Europeans should visit Baghdad if they wanted to meet Iraqi officials. MAP reported that Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali in Geneva convinced his Iraqi counterpart of the importance of meeting the EEC delegation.

48 Wounded in 'Violent' Clashes in Batna

LD1001232991 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] The rally of the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy-Berber tendency] once again could not take place in Batna. But today things happened in a violent way in clashes; 48 people have been wounded. The secretary general of the RCD [Said Saadi] has contactd the editorial room of the third [radio] channel to give more details. They were recorded by Rachida Touazi who took the opportunity to ask him for more. Listen to Mr Said Saadi:

[Begin recording] [Saadi] The march was to start as scheduled at 1430. There were between 10,000 and 15,000 people who were behaving in an orderly way. Ten minutes later after the march started moving to the rally point, small groups of people started to throw stones and five minutes later there were between 200 and 300 attacking the demonstrators with bars and stones. There have been many wounded. At this moment there are 48 wounded people, including one seriously; there has also been hostage-taking. The police finally arrived, but it was very very late. They are currently trying to separate people but the situation is very critical. There are clashes. There is absolutely no authority at the moment here. Anything could happen anywhere, anytime. Already on the basis of what has happened, things are particularly serious. I feel I have to say with a clear mind and in a responsible way that in this affair there is not only provocation, that is, what is happening at this moment is not only sought, but created because we had warned about armed groups in the morning. We were told that they had been put under control. In fact nothing was done. The march started without the slightest protection. The clashes somehow had to take place. These clashes were thus being sought and created. Having said that and apart from the political impact of such events, there are human lives that are in danger. There is one which is particularly threatened.

[Touazi] Have you identified these troublemakers?

[Saadi] There were some from the FLN [National Liberation Front] inside, at the beginning. But the majority of them now are FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] militants.

[Touazi] Do you think that the situation can be brought under control in a few hours?

[Saadi] The situation is getting more critical. As I speak I am receiving the latest information which tells me that the situation is really very, very serious. Our people are still in a quarter at the entrance of the town, but we have the impression that the police do not have the possibility of mobilizing the security services with the required number and quality to guarantee the security of the demonstrators. We think that what has just happened should absolutely not be repeated again, and that it is the very fundamental structures of the Algerian state which are being destroyed, and that there are hidden forces which for ulterior motives are working to achieve this kind of destabilization. It is out of the question to talk about [just an] outburst, offense, incidents, or simply about a gang of excited people who would have decided to do what they wanted to do. This is a premeditated provocation. On the this basis, we think that Algeria is in danger and we have already decided to hold a big demonstration against all this on 17 January in [word indistinct]. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Dr Saadi who called us between 1530 and 1600. We hope the situation will return to normal. We have tried in vain to get in touch with the authorities of Batna. This is an affair one should follow up. We will come back to it.

Hamrouche Returns From Morocco; Visit Reviewed

LD0901114991 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 9 Jan (APS)—The head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, was back to Algiers Tuesday evening after a two day official visit to Morocco. It is worth recalling that the head of government, who was accompanied by an important delegation, was received by King Hassan II, conferred with his Moroccan counterpart, Azzedine Laraki and the chairman of the Moroccan parliament, Ahmed Osman, met the leaders of the Moroccan political parties represented in the parliament and the Algerian community living there.

At the end of the visit a press communique was issued. The communique underlined the talks Hamrouche had with his Moroccan counterpart and the chairman of the Moroccan parliament. The "two sides conferred in a fraternal atmosphere, about all the aspects of the relations existing between the two brotherly countries and noted, with great satisfaction, the very good level reached by these relations. They also expressed their satisfaction about the positive results reached by the Algerian-Moroccan joint commission of cooperation in its latest session.

After reviewing the results of talks held between the Algerian and Moroccan ministers in various sectors, the communique added, the two sides agreed to take all the necessary measures likely to offer the best conditions of sojourn to citizens of the each country in the welcoming country and ease at the same time the flow of citizens. In this context, the two sides agreed to grant a ten year sojourn permit to citizens.

In general, the communique went on, the two sides affirmed their full readiness to continue bilateral cooperation, reinforce it and spread it to all vital fields of vital interests in order to make it up to the aspirations of the two brotherly peoples, in conformity with the orientations of the leaders of the two countries. As concerns the Maghreb edification, the two sides expressed their satisfaction about the bridges crossed by the Union of Arab Maghreb since its creation and noted with satisfaction the efforts deployed by the latest presidency and expressed their firm determination to continue their action so as to reinforce the bases of the Maghreb union and enable it to assume its role within the regional and international instances.

The two sides also reviewed Arab, African and international questions of common interest and agreed on the continuation of consultation and coordination in this field. They also expressed their concern about the tense situation in the Arab Maghreb and reiterated their attachment to international legality in the solution of the existing problems.

On this occasion, the two countries exhorted the Arab and international community to deploy all efforts to avoid to the area the spectre of war. They energetically condemned the acts of aggression perpetrated by Israel against the unarmed Palestinian people and reiterate their firm conviction that peace and security in the Middle East can not be set up without their recovery by the Palestinian people and their national inalienable rights including their rights for the setting up of their state on their national territory with Al-Quds as a capital. [sentence as received]

Moreover, and before leaving Rabat, the head of government stressed in a press conference the prospects of the reinforcement of bilateral cooperation in the economic and commercial fields and the free flow of persons and goods. He also announced the implementation in the short run of a number of measures such as the ones facilitating contacts and communications between the citizens living in border areas. Hamrouche also noted the convergence of points of view with his Moroccan counterpart about questions related to the exchanges of experiences in the fields of education, the possibility of enrolling students in Algerian and Moroccan universities as well as those related to a number of measures concerning employment, training, and the standardization and custom tariffs.

Answering a question on the referendum in Western Sahara, the head of government said Algeria will provide its assistance if it is asked in order to accelerate the execution and the good carrying out of the operation. The question, he said, is between the hands of the United Nations and the Security Council so as to set up the plan of execution of the referendum in collaboration of the Organization of African Unity.

As concerns the Gulf crisis and the role Algeria could play, Hamrouche said President Chadli Bendjedid worked during his latest [words indistinct] occupation and to make the logics of peace prevail over the one of war, adding that the announcement of the Iraqi-American contacts is already a first step to send away the spectre of war from the area.

Defense Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

LD1001103791 Algiers APS in Arabic 0957 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 10 Jan (APS)—A statement issued by the Ministry of National Defense says that Defense Minister Major General Khaled Nezzar yesterday morning, Wednesday, received at the ministry Vasiliy Nikolayevich Taratuta, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Algeria, at the request of the latter.

The statement adds that during the meeting the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest.

Egypt

Mubarak Firmly Against Israeli Intervention

PM1101110591 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

['Adil al-Qadi report: "Mubarak Reaffirms Egypt's Rejection of Gulf Policeman"]

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that, in his view, the blow that would be dealt to Iraq would be very horrific and that nobody would be able to withstand it. The president warned of the seriousness of the situation in the Gulf region, noting that there are 4,500 sophisticated warplanes in the operations theater capable of destroying Iraq and inflicting a catastrophe on it. He ruled out the possibility of an Iraqi preemptive strike against the allied forces. The president told writers and intellectuals whom he met yesterday after opening the book fair that he had written several letters to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak reaffirmed his rejection of the idea that Iraq or any other state—even Egypt—should assume the role of the region's policeman. He said: We treat the states of the region as independent sovereign states... and we will oppose any plan to appoint a policeman for the region; that includes Israel. And if the United States adopted this idea we would resist it.

The president ruled out Israeli involvement in the fighting and said that he had warned the United States

against that, stressing that the situation would change completely if Israel intervened. The president added: Iraq's missiles are not capable of reaching Israel, and if it tried to use them they would fall on Jordan. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak affirmed that no state could ever contain Egypt... and that Egypt, compelled to join the Arab Cooperation Council under pressure from brothers, nevertheless insisted on rejecting an Iraqi request for a joint defense pact and a merger of the intelligence services. He also said that Egypt is concerned for the dignity of its nationals abroad, referring to the atrocities committed by the Iraqi regime against Egyptians who had built up Iraq and supported its Army against Iran. [passage omitted]

The president spoke of King Husayn's attempts to harm Egypt, the latest being his claim, made to the U.S. ambassador in Jordan, that Egypt was fighting Jordan economically and politically, causing the collapse of the Jordanian economy. The president was amazed at the claims that there was a scenario agreed between Iraq and the United States to keep the U.S. forces in the Gulf. He said: I doubt the existence of such a scenario, because Iraq would be destroyed in the war. Who would plot his own destruction? [passage omitted]

Cairo Papers View Prospects of Peace in Gulf

NC1101084091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Cairo papers today focus on current intensive international efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis before 15 January, the UN Security Council deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, following the failure of the Geneva talks between James Baker and Tariq 'Aziz.

In its commentary, AL-AHRAM says that the international community has not yet given up hope for the retreat of the Iraqi regime from its hardline position. The EC is exerting active efforts, French President Francois Mitterrand has declared his readiness to go to Baghdad in a last ditch effort, and the UN secretary general is to visit Iraq today, the paper notes.

AL-AHRAM warns the Iraqi regime against imagining that international efforts to avoid war means that there is a possibility of accepting the status quo as a price for averting war. The international community is seeking to liberate Kuwait by peace or war, the paper says.

AL-AHRAM concludes its commentary by saying that it is now up to the Iraqi regime to spare itself, the Arab people, and the entire region the scourge and destruction of war.

Meanwhile, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that any sincere Arab has a profound hope that a miracle will happen at the last minute to save the Iraqi people from a sad future. The paper says that despite all the crimes and offenses the Iraqi dictator has committed against all Arabs and against all nations, no one wishes to see the Iraqi people suffer the impending catastrophe.

Under the headline "Hectic Race," AL-JUMHURIYAH hopes that Saddam Husayn will realize the magnitude of the impending danger, abandon his defiance of the international community and of legitimacy and justice, and decide to withdraw at the last minute, particularly after he has been given guarantees that he will not come to harm if he decides to withdraw.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the door for a peaceful solution is still open due to the intensive efforts by the international community on all levels. The war decision is in the hands of Saddam Husayn himself, but he insists, as UK Prime Minister John Major says, on standing alone against the world.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the prospects of danger were heightened by the failure of the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. This is particularly true in light of Tariq 'Aziz's refusal to receive the message from U.S. President George Bush to Saddam Husayn. 'Aziz, the paper notes, showed no flexibility or willingness to withraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the international alliance will not allow Saddam Husayn and his maneuvers to divide the ranks of international solidarity. The alliance has given peace every chance, but it maintains a presence in the Gulf and is ready to enforce international resolutions.

Commentary on Last Days Before 15 Jan Deadline

NC1001220691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Five Days Divide the Perils of War and the Hopes for Peace"]

[Text] All we can say about the results of the Geneva talks between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister, and following their statements and those by U.S. President George Bush is that nobody knows what course the current Gulf crisis will take and whether it will be resolved by peace or war before all the peaceful efforts are exhausted in the few days left before the UN deadline for Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait. As is known, this deadline is 15 January.

Actually nobody expected the Geneva talks to settle the matter decisively, for it is inconceivable for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to authorize his foreign minister to declare his agreement to withdraw from Kuwait, if he intends to do so. Such a decision can be made only by the Iraqi president himself, and the same is true of the war decision, should the Iraqi president decide to keep up his arrogant and illogical stand and push his country, the region, and the entire world into the inferno of a war whose consequences are certain to be extremely grave by any standard.

Several signals indicate that the last effort to resolve the crisis peacefully could be undertaken by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in the next few days. The French president or the EC could also make a last-minute effort. However, irrespective of the steps to be taken or of the course that events will take in what we could describe as the peak of the crisis' critical days, things have become clearer for all parties after the Geneva talks. It is true that the stands had been defined quite clearly before these talks, but the dialogue between the U.S. secretary of state and his Iraqi counterpart was face to face this time. One of them told the other everything on his mind, and each managed to recognize the other's true position and its dimensions without middlemen or maneuvers. As it transpires from the official statements that followed the talks, it was the Americans who dotted the i's and crossed the t's as far as their position is concerned, and the Iraqis had almost nothing to say except to refuse to show any flexibility. However, this does not change anything about the reality of the situation. Although the Iraqi foreign minister did not show any flexibility and refused to convey the U.S. President's message to the Iraqi president after reading it carefully, all signs indicate that the international community will be fully committed to its stand in the next few days. Thus, there will be no bargaining regarding the need for Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and for not enabling Iraq to gain from its aggression. To be more precise, there will be no bargaining over the contents of the Security Council resolutions, which were all drafted in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter as well as international legitimacy.

Some could ask: If that is the situation, what can one expect in the next five days until the deadline set by the international resolutions for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait expires? The answer to this question is not easy, but we must bear in mind that a decision to go to war is an extremely serious one and that the international community is postponing it until the last moment. There are even indications that the international community is willing to give Iraqi President Saddam Husayn full opportunity despite the time limit that divides war and peace; that is, the middle of this month. However, once the middle of the month comes, the Iraqi president will not be able to know when the first shot in the war will be fired unless he fires it himself. After this date, the world community will be free to implement international legitimacy's will decisively although it is aware of the terrible consequences of going to war. If the Iraqi president sticks to his stand, he will have closed all doors and made the entire world make an inevitable choice. Then, the responsiblity for this will be fully his. It is a great responsibility, and we cannot imgaine how any human being with the slightest degree of sanity and common sense could agree to take it on. This is so because the result of war is known in advance to everybody, and the Iraqi president must know it, unless he has lost all sense and has become indifferent about the destruction of his country and shedding the blood of thousands of its inhabitants. This is not to mention what will befall the region and the world in terms of grave losses, all with no justification, except the blind obstinacy and satisfaction of the megalomania of the Iraqi president.

To sum up, we can only say that the predicament surrounding the Iraqi people first and foremost is closing in on them in a horrible way, and the Iraqi president is wasting precious time in vain and in senseless, futile, and reckless maneuvers. All we can do is wait to see what the events and developments will bring without giving up hope until the last moment.

Sudan

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Khartoum for Talks

EA1001140991 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan— The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in the country at 1100 today. He was met at Khartoum airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, senior officials, and officials of the Palestinian Embassy in Khartoum. Upon his arrival, the Palestinian president told the press that he would discuss with Lt. Gen. 'Umar the latest developments in the Gulf crisis following the failure of the discussions between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state.

'Arafat stressed the need for linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Middle East (?problem) [words indistinct] to implement all the UN resolutions on the Middle East problem, inasmuch as the [words indistinct] are indivisible.

Says U.S Should Open Dialogue

EA1001193491 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, [words indistinct] to continue dialogue in order to arrive at a solution to the Gulf crisis and other Middle East problems. His excellency described the meeting between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in Geneva yesterday as a first meeting, adding that it was impossible to solve (?all) the problems in a first meeting.

In a statement to SUNA, his excellency stressed the need for meetings and said that if the United States wanted to solve the problem it should open a dialogue and negotiations. 'Arafat, showed surprise at the U.S. position, saying that at a time when the United States put pressure on the Palestinians to open a dialogue with the Israelis, it did not want to open a dialogue with Iraq to prevent a disastrous war from befalling the world. President 'Arafat added that war in the oil areas was not only against Iraq or the Arab world because it would destroy world peace. We should all—the Arab world and the international community—make every effort to restore a

just and comprehensive peace in the Gulf and the Middle East. He continued: We want peace for all the people in the region, not peace for just some people.

He said his current tour of Arab countries was to conduct bilateral dicussions with the leaders of those countries to (?arrive at) an Arab idea on how to contain the present crisis, stressing that the Arab nation was capable of solving its problems. He said that previously we were facing these problems without a foreign presence.

The Palestinian president arrived at Khartoum Airport at 1100 and was met by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Major General al-Tijani Adam al- Tahir, member of the RCC; a number of senior government officials; and officials of the Palestinian Embassy in Khartoum.

Discusses Gulf, Departs

EA1001194291 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, left this evening after a visit to the country lasting several hours during which he held talks with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir on the latest developments in the Arab region in light of the Gulf crisis. In a press statement, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said the discussions concerned the current situation in the Arab region with particular reference to the Gulf crisis. He said they touched on the possibility of an Arab move to (?find) a way out of the crisis, in addition to discussing the possibility of avoiding [word indistinct] a destructive war in the Arab region.

Opposition Forms 'Government-in-Exile'

NC1001105091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (MENA)—The official Sudanese newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI has reported that the Sudanese opposition has established a government-in-exile headed by Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander of the Armed Forces under Sadiq al-Mahdi. Colonel John Garang, leader of the rebel movement in the south, is deputy leader of the government-in-exile and Mansur Khalid, who was foreign minister under former President Ja'far Numayiri, is a foreign minister in that government.

The same paper also reports that a center for the banned Communist Party was discovered at a home in Banat in Omdurman. Several critical documents revealing the party's plans to undermine the government, its assistance to the rebel movement in the south, and its role in dividing the home front and in providing the rebels with security reports were found in the center.

Tunisia

Ministry Officials Meet U.S., Iraqi Envoys

LD1001235791 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tunisian diplomacy is not isolated from what is happening in the Gulf. Foreign Minister Habib Boulares received yesterday morning at the Foreign Ministry Iraqi Ambassador to Tunisia Hamid 'Alwan al-Jaburi.

Habib Ben Yahya, secretary of state for foreign affairs, received U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau, Jr.

The two sessions of talks included the Geneva talks between the head of Iraqi diplomacy, Tariq 'Aziz, and the U.S. secretary of state, James Baker.

Foreign Ministry Appeals For Peace, Dialogue

LD1001235291 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry gave the following statement:

The Tunisian Government received with extreme regrets the announcement of the failure of the Geneva talks between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States at a time during which the peoples of the world were looking forward to that meeting with the hope and optimism that it would lead to positive results that would remove the shadows of war and destruction from the Gulf region and consecrate logic, wisdom, and reason.

Tunisia, which seriously contributed from the beginning to the pursuit of a peaceful settlement of this crisis on the basis of preserving the gains of the Arab nation and protecting its higher interests, reiterates its commitment to the peace and dialogue option in solving all crises—a stance which is compatible with international traditions and treaties and which preserves international peace and security.

Starting from this premise and under these critical circumstances, Tunisia appeals to all sides to resort to the logic of peace and dialogue and show an increasingly sincere will to exhaust all peaceful means to solve this crisis, thereby enabling the human race to avoid another destructive war and consecrate peace in this dear region.

'Measures' To Insure Safety of Citizens in Gulf

LD0801073791 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Tunisian cabinet held a limited meeting under the chairmanship of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday devoted to discussing the Gulf crisis. During the meeting, measures were taken to insure the safety of members of the Tunisian community in the Gulf and to enable them to continue their work there side by side with their brothers in the host countries. President Ben Ali asked

Hamadi El-Kouini, secretary of state attached to the Foreign Ministry, to contact members of our community in the Gulf countries and familiarize himself with their conditions.

'Extremist' Riots Reported in Le Bardo 7 Jan

LD0801233691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The quarter of Le Bardo, West Tunis, witnessed on Monday evening, 7 January, a gathering of many extremists who resorted to throwing Molotov cocktails at the headquarters of the Gendarmerie, after they had attacked the headquarters of the Constitutional Democratic Rally and roughed up several citizens who were standing in front of it. Also, private cars parked in the streets and shops did not escape smashing and burning. These extremists were scattered by the security forces and a number were caught in the act. During the same evening, the security forces discovered a timed explosive charge manufactured with an electric transformer. The charge was defused immediately.

Rally Denounces Riots

LD0901093991 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Constitutional Democratic Rally met this evening at the rally's headquarters under Deputy Chairman Hamed Karoui. [passage omitted] The Political Bureau discussed the recent disorders behind which lie extremist currents hostile to democracy. The Political Bureau, while it confirms its rejection of violence and denunciation of these acts which harm the security of citizens and public and private gains, rejects the drive by the extremist currents to mislead public opinion and involve youth, especially students, in sabotage and anarchist plans with political motivations which have nothing to do with the [word indistinct] of political and civil behavior established by the change in the regime. The Political Bureau expresses confidence in the progressive and democratic forces in the country to confront and expose these practices and to defend society and democracy.

Further, the Political Bureau studied developments in the Gulf and records with satisfaction the announcement on the planned American-Iraqi meeting on the current crisis. It confirms its adherance to the attitude of the Tunisian Government which calls for a peaceful solution and exerting every effort to spare the region the horrors of war. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Paper Reports Baker 'Conditions' Given to 'Aziz

PM1101121791 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Conditions Submitted by Baker to 'Aziz for Resolving Crisis Peacefully"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Informed sources from the U.S. delegation have reported that Baker informed 'Aziz of the U.S. conditions for resolving the crisis and that these conditions, of which Washington also informed the allied states, are as follows:

Iraq must withdraw totally and unconditionally;

the time taken to withdraw should not exceed two weeks but could be extended by one week if the United States considered that necessary;

Iraq is to enter into talks with Washington and the Gulf states to decide a security system for the region;

Iraq is to enter into bilateral talks with Kuwait or multilateral talks with the Gulf states, or with the participation of other Arab states and the United States, to resolve border disputes between the two countries;

the United States agrees to convene an international conference to settle the Middle East problem at the right time, but without any linkage between that and the Gulf issue;

Iraq has to compensate Kuwait for all the losses resulting from the invasion, that is unless the Kuwaiti Government abandons that issue or decides on something different from the U.S. view in that regard.

The sources pointed out that Baker gave 'Aziz three days to reply to these terms, providing for this to be done through diplomatic channels.

'Responsible Source' on Failure of Geneva Talks

LD1101100691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Jan (SPA)—The State of Kuwait has assigned responsibility for the disastrous consequences which will follow from the Iraqi regime's treating the will of international community with contempt.

A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has commented on the failure of the meeting between the U.S. and Iraqi Foreign ministers. He said: "By stubbornly and wilfully opposing the will of the international community, the Iraqi regime will bear the responsibility of its disastrous disregard."

The source, according to the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, also said: Kuwait has been watching this meeting with great interest. It was hoping the Iraqi regime would respond to the international resolutions concerning the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. Iraq should have taken this opportunity to save Iraq and the Iraqi people from destruction and devastation.

The Kuwaiti source said: The world, together with us, has witnessed another aspect of the Iraqi regime's insistence on defying the will of the world community by persisting in occupying Kuwait and continuing its aggression against the steadfast Kuwaiti people, by disregarding international resolutions, and by paying no attention to the firm stand that calls for all means to be used to implement UN resolutions, on which international opinion is united.

Talks Said To Show Saddam's 'Twisted Logic'

PM1001164991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Jan 91 p 1

[Article by Muhammad al-Rumayhi: "What Saddam Asked of Baker"]

[Text] The world yesterday came face to face with the "logic of terrorism" just as it did on 2 August. More than five months later, and just seven days before the deadline set by the world for the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn still insists on using the same language of terrorism and the same twisted logic of terrorism, this time applying a refined and extended version.

Despite the Iraqi regime's attempts to present its demands and objectives ambiguously—although what has been leaked about Baker's talks with 'Aziz does not accurately reveal these demands and objectives—available information indicates that Saddam's demands are still governed by the same complex which made him invade Kuwait on a personal whim and call on the world to recognize him as an "historic leader." It did not matter to him that historic leadership means certain specific characteristics, such as the fact that the leadership should be at peace with its own people and should use the family spirit approach with the people, instead of repression, assassination, torture, and terrorism by the security and intelligence organs. It did not matter to him either that the historic leadership plunged the people into a ferocious war that destroyed the people's economy and future in fulfillment of a mad dream, only to tell the people later that all their sacrifices and tragedies had been in vain.

According to information leaked so far about the meeting between James Baker and Tariq 'Aziz—and this is also the unanimous view of the Europeans and the Japanese—the safety and security of Saddam Husayn and his clique are his main preoccupation and top the list of any requests he makes at any talks. In fact, they are the only fixed demands in the list of ever-changing demands.

To his list of demands Saddam Husayn adds discontinuation of sanctions against him coupled with a U.S. and European recognition of him as a national hero and a regional power—failing which he will continue the war he started on 2 August. As a prominent British official said privately: What Saddam Husayn wants to hear from us is: Recognize me as the region's policeman ... otherwise I will be in a position to destroy it, and what happened in Kuwait is an example. The British official further comments: This is just like besieging a criminal

who has kidnapped and tortured a hostage and refuses to release the hostage unless he is recognized as a policeman.

That logic shows, as did the Baker-'Aziz talks, that the terrorist logic still prevails, and that what occurred on 2 August was not an act of war but an act of terrorism which is still continuing. Perhaps Saddam's brother Barzan al-Tikriti's presence at the talks as Saddam's sole and legitimate representative indicates the extent of Saddam's distrust of officials outside the circle of his own family.

The logic of terrorism is bound to fail. The world's drive, from the first day of the abominable invasion, to encircle and confront the aggression is only a first step toward rooting it out and destroying its symbols and toward restoring Kuwait, its people, and its legitimate government to a free and independent homeland.

Saddam Husayn can demand what he likes, but the world has already issued a dozen resolutions all dictating withdrawal, not in return for a reward, but to be coupled with payment of reparations. The world is still one solid, united front supporting our people and our just cause, as we support ourselves and our legitimate government. No matter how much Saddam tries to maneuver for more time and how much he distances himself from the bitter truth, he will not be able to bypass 15 January. The clock is tick'ng and we have a date with freedom.

Official Urges Responsibility for UN Resolutions

LD1001200291 London KUNA in Arabic 1839 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mecca, 10 Jan (KUNA)—Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, minister of information and minister of state for national council affairs, has said that the failure of the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart was a foregone conclusion, in view of the Iraqi regime's persistence in rejecting the international will through its media trumpets and its official statements.

In a statement to KUNA on the talks' failure, he added that the Iraqi intransigence and failure to implement the UN Security Council resolutions clearly indicates that the regime is obstructing the implementation of these resolutions. Dr. Ya'qub urged the international community to shoulder its full responsibilities regarding the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the territories of Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it. [passage omitted]

Occupying Troops Rebellion Attempt Crushed

PM1001160191 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 9 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Commits Massacre in Kuwait"]

[Text] Amman (Exclusive)—Reports released from occupied Kuwait yesterday noon revealed the details of the biggest crime committed in the silence, which reached its peak when it turned into a massacre that claimed the lives of 47 Iraqi military personnel of various ranks, including battalion and division commanders, eight corps commanders, and 12 air defense launcher unit commanders, in addition to a group of helicopter pilots.

The state of unrest and discontent and the low morale among the Iraqi occupation troops in Kuwait have worsened over the past six weeks. This has prompted the military and political leaderships placed in Kuwait by the Baghdad regime to try several times to destroy it, to thwart several recent attempts at limited rebellion, and to conduct a large-scale transfer campaign which included battalion and corps commanders. They were replaced by new elements from Baghdad.

The successive changes witnessed by most battalions of the Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait contributed to deepening unrest and deteriorating morale among the regular troops and the Popular Army, controlled and incited by the party political leaderships.

One of the reports received in the Jordanian capital, Amman, carries the details of the large massacre committed a few days ago by two special intelligence groups under Saddam Husayn's direct command. It indicates that a group of senior Iraqi military personnel stationed in occupied Kuwait had prepared a plan to seize government and military power in Kuwait, cut off contacts with Baghdad, and besiege the northern areas with tanks and heavy artillery to prevent the penetration of any reinforcements dispatched by the leadership in Baghdad. To implement and secure the plan, numerous elements were recruited from the troops and battalion commanders of the regular Iraqi Army and Popular Army occupying Kuwait, in addition to a number of others from the political leadership's office. Meetings also were held among small groups in four separate locations in the Kuwaiti public installations seized since the August invasion. The implementation plans were amended three times before the final plan was endorsed. It was decided to present it at a major meeting in one of the residential buildings seized earlier in the al-Shuwaykh area.

The meeting started at noon one day last week after the arrival of a number of military personnel and civilians at the specified location once the surrounding streets and the building itself were secured.

At 1430 hours, shots were heard. They were followed by heavy artillery shelling from the direction of al-Shuwaykh. At the same time, two special intelligence groups stormed the building where the senior military personnel and civilian figures were meeting to endorse the final plan to control Kuwait, arrest all those loyal to Saddam, disarm and arrest the occupation troops, and then broadcast the surrender statement and restore legitimacy to Kuwait.

The two special intelligence groups were able to liquidate all the people present in the building, namely 47 officers and civilians. They also arrested the security soldiers, imposed a tight siege on the al-Shuwaykh area, and pursued some individuals who escaped through the rear windows of the first floor of the building and then managed to flee Kuwait.

Oman

Deputy Premier Announces 1991 Budget

PM0401155391 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 2 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Five-Year Plan Endorsed"]

[Text] Muscat—The Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, announced here yesterday the state's budget for 1991.

The Deputy Prime Minister told OMAN NEWS AGENCY that the state's budget for 1991 is RO [Omani rials] 1,814,000,000.

This includes current expenditure, investment, expenditure on oil production and assistance given to industrial sector and specialised banks.

Estimated expenditure on investment during 1991 is RO 399 million, the Deputy Prime Minister said, pointing out that estimated total expenditure for this year increased by 4 per cent compared with 1990.

The Deputy Prime Minister said total revenues for 1991 would amount to nearly RO 1,577,000,000 with the income from oil making up 77 percent.

He said the 1991 budget would focus on supporting the industrial sector whether through direct funding or easy term bank loans, to the tune of RO 24 million.

Endorsed By Sultan

PM0401155591 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 2 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Five-Year Plan Endorsed"]

[Text] Muscat—His Majesty Sultan Qabus yesterday issued two royal decrees.

The first Decree endorses the fourth five year plan, 1991-95. A summary of the plan is attached with the Decree. When implemented, the Decree states, the plan should stick to the basic terms attached with the Decree.

The Development Council should publish details of the fourth five year plan in a special report. The Decree further states that all Ministries and governments departments should implement the plan without affecting the adjudication system or the endorsement of the state's general annual budget.

The second royal Decree ratifies the State budget for 1991 according to the tables attached with the Decree.

All ministries and government departments should implement the decree in their various capacities.

Saudi Arabia

Baker in Riyadh; Sees 'Chance For Peace'

LD1001194191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1610 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Jan (SPA)—The U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, arrived in Riyadh this evening.

He was met at King Khalid international airport by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the custodian of the two holy mosque's ambassador in Washington, His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Muhammad al-Nuwaysir, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom Charles Freeman, and senior officials.

Mr. James Baker made a press statement upon his arrival in Riyadh, in which he said: As I have said this afternoon, there is still a chance for peace. This chance is in the hands of the Iraqi Government, and it lies in its implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. He pointed out that His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, shared this view.

Kingdom Rejects Iraqi Memo on Kuwait Documents

LD1001191291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly rejects the 18 December memorandum presented by the Iraqi permanent UN delegate to the UN secretary general. The memorandum expresses Iraq's reservations concerning the decision of the committee dealing with mandate documents, which will be submitted to the UN General Assembly, on accepting the documents of the Kuwaiti delegation to the 45th UN General Assembly session.

This came in a letter sent by Ambassador Samir al-Shihabi, permanent delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. In the letter, Shihabi said: I express our rejection of the Iraqi permanent delegate's letter, which confirms Iraq's violation of the UN charter and all international conventions. The delegate of the Kingdom has asked that this letter be distributed as a document of the UN General Assembly, under Article 3 of the agenda.

Blood Drive Launched; School Holidays Extended

NC1001224691 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 10 (AFP)—The Saudi authorities on Thursday launched a drive for blood donors and extended school holidays as war clouds gathered over the Gulf.

The Health Ministry announced that a blood drive would be launched nationwide in coordination with the Ministries of Defense and Interior.

The ministry also said a 12-day mid-term vacation scheduled to start on Monday January 14 would be extended by one week.

A U.S.-led multinational force massed in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf has been authorised by the United Nations to drive Iraq from Kuwait by military action if Baghdad failed to evacuate the emirate by January 15.

Official Riyadh Radio, which traditionally stops its broadcasts overnight, has meanwhile begun round-the-clock programs.

Editorial Highlights Importance of 'Principles'

PM1101100991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jan 91 p 13

[Editorial: "Balancing Principles and Interests"]

[Text] The approach adopted by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at their meeting in Geneva yesterday was a balancing of principles and interests for the sake of sparing the world the danger of a destructive war. Because the principles and interests discussed are fundamental and important, it was natural for the meeting to be extended and the discussions to be deepened.

The fundamental principles discussed were every state's right to sovereignty, the unacceptability of aggression as a means of resolving disputes, the refusal to reward an aggressor whatever the excuses or circumstances, and the need to restore the pre-invasion situation under the legitimate authority which has been encroached.

These fundamental principles are emphasized by the UN Charter, the Arab League Charter, and the resolutions adopted by both the UN Security Council and the Arab League Council.

Because these are fundamental principles regulating relations among states and guaranteeing international peace and security as well as good-neighborliness among fraternal and neighboring states, the world should certainly not be lax in applying them nor should it bargain over observing and respecting them.

If Iraq or any other state has disputes it wishes to discuss, the UN Charter and the Arab League Charter provide ways and means for doing that. Iraq did not try to respect and follow these ways and means but instead was eager to transgress them in a way that jeopardized fundamental principles and exposed international peace and security to terrible dangers.

What is known is that what James Baker sought to tell the Iraqi president's envoy was that the world was ready to balance principles and interests, but without affecting in any way the fundamental principles, because they are the anchor of international peace and security.

Principles are above interests because they concern the world as a whole and concern what is fundamental and common in international life.

The sovereignty of the State of Kuwait as a UN and Arab League member as well as its security and safety are more important, more estimable, and more valuable than any alleged claims by Iraq with regard to the Rumaylah oilfield or any benefit from abolishing a debt or seeking a loan.

True, the Palestinian people do have the right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their territory, but the matter should not be portrayed as if the occupation of Kuwait is a condition for recovering that right. Was Kuwait the obstacle between the Palestinian people and their attainment of their rights? Did the Palestinian people authorize the Iraqi Government to occupy the territory of another state in order to grant them the opportunity to demand the upholding of their rights?!

When balancing principles and interests, principles must come first and must always be given precedence. This is because they are an expression of the international community's high interests and the strongest guarantee for safeguarding what is fundamental and common in international life—international peace and security.

United Arab Emirates

Baker Visits Abu Dhabi, Meets With Zayid

NC1101133891 Manama WAKH in Arabic GMT 1300 11 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is currently visiting here.

A reliable source in the UAE said that the conferees reviewed all the developments in the Gulf crisis in light of the current moves and exchanged views on developments in international efforts to implement the resolutions of the international community—namely, Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal from the fraternal State of Kuwait and the return of legitimacy there under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

The U.S. secretary of state briefed the UAE president on the outcome of his meeting in Geneva with the Iraqi foreign minister, which ended in failure due to continued Iraqi intransigence.

The same source added, in a statement carried by the emirates' news agency, that James Baker had stressed during the meeting the international community's cohesiveness and determination to implement the international resolutions calling for the immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy there.

Yemen

Omani Foreign Minister Meets With Al-Bid

Review Ties, Gulf Situation

JN1101093991 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, yesterday received Brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation, in the city of al-Mukalla. They discussed relations between the two brotherly countries and reviewed the situation in the Gulf region. In this regard, the brother Presidential Council vice chairman stressed the need to bolster ties between the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman and implement all the agreements between the two fraternal countries to serve the interests of the Yemeni and Omani peoples and contribute to the strengthening of security and stability in the region.

He also reaffirmed our country's firm principled stand on the Gulf crisis, which objects to the occupation of the others' territories by force and the foreign presence in the region and calls for continuing the Arab efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis that would spare the region a devastating catastrophe.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Brother Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Majiri, Council of Representatives member and head of the executive bureau of the local people's council at Hadramawt Governorate.

Holds Talks With Al-Iryani

JN1101095991 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] A round of brotherly talks was held between the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman at the Foreign Ministry this morning under the co-chairmanship of Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni Minister of foreign affairs; and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting our country. The talks centered on relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them in the economic, educational, and political areas. The two sides also discussed developments in the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Trade Minister Arrives for Economic Talks

JN0501200391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Sanaa, 5 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih arrived here today on a visit to the Republic of Yemen lasting several days.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Sanaa, he said he will hold talks on economic relations between Iraq and Yemen, as well as on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Salih, Others Return From Inspection Tours

EA1001203491 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Brothers al-Qadi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Arashi; Salim Salih Muhammad; and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, members of the Presidential Council, returned to Sanaa today after making field inspection tours of Al-Hudaybah, Ta'izz, Aden, Abyan and Lahij Governorates. During these tours the brother president and members of the Presidential Council inspected the condition of the citizens and listened to their worries, problems, and aspirations. They also examined the progress of work in the services and development sectors which had been or were being implemented in the governorates. The brother president opened projects and laid foundation stones for a number of industrial, commercial, and service projects being implemented by the private, public, and cooperative sectors.

The brother president and members of the Presidential Council also met in the governorates the brother governors and officers of the executive bureaus and government organizations, as well as professional and creative organizations and unions, whose members briefed them on the progress of performance and production in their various facilities and institutions as well as their concerns and problems. The brother president advised them on how to overcome the difficulties encountered in their administrative and productive work. He urged them to spare no efforts to raise the standard of work and activate the processes of production to serve the goals of overall national development.

Commentary Views Moves To Solve Merger Problems

AB0701114091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1835 GMT 6 Jan 91

["Political commentary" by Professor Ahmad Fad'aq]

[Text] The Presidential Council, chaired by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the council, met today at the Republican Palace in the economic and commercial capital, Aden. The meeting was attended by

brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers. The participants discussed the situation of government institutions and that of the cadres in all the governorates with a view to solving problems affecting the merger process and overcoming the remnants of division. Prof. Ahmad Fad'aq has written the following commentary on this topic:

During its meeting today, the Presidential Council discussed a wide series of issues requiring rapid and effective solutions to enable the unified state to make a firm start in implementing plans and programs during the coming period. The cadres in the southern governorates are considered capable of discharging the tasks set by the state aimed at perfecting the unification of public institutions, eradicating the remnants of division, and embarking on the implementation of the government's decree to transform Aden into a free area.

To this end, the Presidential Council has given its directives to the Council of Ministers to solve the issues affecting the cadres to enable the latter to implement the duties with which they have been charged. Once the cadres are organized, it will be their task to merge government and public institutions. This operation is interlinked and insofar as there are many future programs and projects to be carried out by the state, the state must rely on the cadres and the government and public institutions. This operation will require the full application of the nation's qualified staff tasked with this issue.

It is clear that the state's course of encouraging investment in various areas, such as those of housing, factory building, expanding agriculture, and other vital projects in the economic and commercial capital, Aden—these projects also are to include Aden port, Aden refinery, and the Crater and Mu'alla sewerage project—all these projects will require qualified national staff. The government knows it will be unable to gain the services of such qualified staff unless it prepares excellent conditions for them and makes available to them confidence, stability, and promotions and improves their pay and conditions.

One of the most important issues also studied by the Presidential Council was that of compensating citizens for property affected by the nationalization laws. In this respect, the Presidential Council stressed that the inviolability of private property was guaranteed under law and the Constitution. The council instructed the government to take urgent steps to solve such issues.

These issues studied by the Presidential Council, which also took appropriate steps, constitute the cornerstones of the process of establishing a state of law and order. In devoting today's meeting to these issues and charging the government to resolve them urgently, the council is confirming our people's aspirations to make rapid progress toward strengthening democratic practice and the course of unification, things which have been achieved in practical terms since 22 May 1990 and which have opened wide the gates for the realization of the aspirations for which our people are striving in terms of economic and social progress and strengthening the single Yemeni state on the foundations of civilization and by modern methods.

Decree Issued on Interior Ministry Appointments

EA0401134291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Republican Decree No. 1/1991 was issued today introducing some appointments in the Ministry of the Interior and Security and units belonging to it.

Article One: The brothers whose names follow are appointed to the positions mentioned after their names.

1. Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, commander of central security.
2. Colonel 'Abd-al-Malik 'Abdallah al-Tayyib, deputy commander of central security.
3. Colonel (Fadil Muhsin al-Anshali), staff member of central security.
4. Colonel Rashid Ahmad Husayn, under secretary for the branch of the Ministry of the Interior and Security, Governorate of Aden.
5. Colonel ('Abd-al-Rahman al-Shahidhi), assistant under secretary for the branch of the Ministry of the Interior and Security in the Governorate of Aden.
6. Colonel Muhsin 'Abdallah al-Mashajari, under secretary for the department of immigration, passports and citizenship.
7. Colonel Yahya Ahmad al-Kassar, under secretary for the department of prisons.
8. Ahmad Sa'id al-Hajji, under secretary for the department of personal civil status and the civil register.

Article Two: This decree takes effect from the date of issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Republic's presidency in Sanaa, dated 2 January 1991.
[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Minister Denies CNN Report on New Initiative

JN1101115591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1137 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has commented on a report by the U.S. CNN television network in which it cited diplomatic and press sources as saying that President Saddam Husayn plans to propose an alternative peace initiative after 15 January. The minister of culture and information told INA: We categorically deny such reports, which are absolutely untrue. He added: There is no initiative or plan except President Saddam Husayn's initiative which his excellency announced on 12 August 1990.

The minister of culture and information stressed that the leader president's initiative will help create the atmosphere for genuine peace in the region and will facilitate establishing permanent stability.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, concluded his comment to the INA by saying: Iraq's policy is clear and declared. Its initiatives, headed by leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990, reveal the falsity of the United States and its allies and their double standards in dealing with regional problems. They also expose their small agents and their crimes against the Arab nation.

Tariq 'Aziz, Delegation Return From Geneva

JN1001161091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad today following a two-day visit to Geneva.

Tariq 'Aziz led the Iraqi delegation to the Iraqi-U.S. talks which concluded in Geneva yesterday.

Briefs Saddam on U.S. 'Intransigence'

JN1001202691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2017 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn met with Revolution Command Council members today.

His excellency was briefed by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the talks he held with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the U.S. side's intransigence about the situation in the Arab Gulf region.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim attended the meeting.

U.S. 'Solely Responsible' for Failure

JN1101122191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Zambian Foreign Minister General Mibunki. During the meeting they exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments in the Arab region.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed Iraq's position based on President Saddam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative which calls for finding a peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution to all the connected [mutarabitah] problems in the region, particularly the issue of the Palestinian people.

He also stressed Iraq's concern for improving Iraqi-Zambian ties in all fields for the benefit of the two friendly countries' common interests.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that the United States is solely responsible for the failure of the Geneva talks because of its selective, biased, and double-standard positions in dealing with the region's problems, because of its refusal to treat the Palestine question on the basis of the principles of international law and on the bases of justice and fairness, because of its insistence on supporting the Zionist entity's aggressive and expansionist trend, and because of its determination to control the region and its resources within the framework of its aggressive course to control the world.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the head of the Foreign Ministry's Second International Department.

Saddam Meets With Ba'th Party National Command

JN1001163491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1627 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn met with Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command members yesterday. Developments in the Arab and international arenas were discussed.

'Izzat Ibrahim Returns From Tehran

JN1101091791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, and his delegation returned to Baghdad last night following a three-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and a number of ministers.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left Tehran last night. He was accorded an official send-off led by Hasan Habibi, first vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Saddam Welcomes Zambian President Kaunda

JN1001164491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1636 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda arrived in Baghdad today on a visit.

President Saddam Husayn headed those who received him. President Saddam Husayn embraced his guest and shook hands with members of the accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Presidents Discuss Developments

JN1001201991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda have held a session of talks dealing with the developments of the situation in the region. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn hosted a dinner banquet in honor of his guest, President Kenneth Kaunda. Members of the two delegations attended the banquet.

Sudanese Official Arrives With Message for Saddam

JN0901204491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih was accorded an official reception at Saddam International Airport. Leading those on hand at the airport to welcome him was Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister; a number of cabinet ministers; and the Sudanese ambassador to Baghdad.

The deputy chairman of the NSRCC made a statement to an INA correspondent, saying that his visit to Iraq comes in the context of the strong fraternal ties existing between the two countries. He added that he has a message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, NSRCC chairman, to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

Sudan Asserts Support

JN0901204891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council of fraternal Sudan.

Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih relayed a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir dealing with the close fraternal relations between the two countries and the developments in the region. The message also asserts Sudan's position which supports the legitimate, just struggle that Iraq is waging in defense of the Arab nation's principles and sanctities, and which supports Iraq's brave and unyielding struggle against the imperialist-Zionist aggression and the forces allied with it, which oppose the Arab nation's aspirations and message.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the Sudanese ambassador to Baghdad.

Emissary Departs

JN1001122891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council, left Baghdad today. He was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, other ministers, and the Sudanese ambassador to Baghdad.

Mauritanian President's Envoy Arrives

JN0801143091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—Mauritanian Interior Minister Cheickh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's envoy to President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA, the Mauritanian envoy said he will convey an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and developments of the situation in the Arab arena.

He was received at the airport by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and the Mauritanian ambassador to Baghdad.

Saddam Receives Message

JN0801185791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Salvation.

The message, which Mauritanian Interior Minister Cheickh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba conveyed to the president today,

deals with the strong fraternal relations between Iraq and Mauritania and the current situation in the region.

Emissary Departs

JN0901145791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0917 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—Mauritanian Interior Minister Cheickh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's envoy to President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad today following a one-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Ramadan—Battle To Achieve Arab, Human Goals

JN0801164491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Bassam Yusuf al-'Abbadi, a Jordanian citizen who volunteered to support Iraq and who represents the Jordanian Bani-'Abbad tribe.

The first deputy prime minister praised the profound awareness of the Arab masses and the genuine pan-Arab support of the Jordanian people for Iraq, which is honored to be in the forefront of Arabs and Muslims to liberate Jerusalem, the Kaaba, and all holy places, and to expel the Zionist and U.S. occupiers and their allies. Taha Yasin Ramadan said Arab and human objectives will be achieved in this battle, after these objectives were lost as result of the defeatism, subservience, and treason of coward rulers, who accepted that the destiny of the Arabs be in the hands of the their enemies who occupy their land, exploit their wealth, and control their will.

Bassam Yusuf al-'Abbadi expressed his own pride and that of all Arabs in the brave, great leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, affirming that Arab youth in Jordan and other Arab countries are now standing in the frontline with their Iraqi brothers to defend Iraq's rights and the Arab nation's dignity.

Expelled Press Adviser Criticizes British Measures

JN1001124891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Na'il 'Abd-al-Jabbar, the Iraqi Embassy's press adviser, described the British authorities' decision to expel 76 Iraqi citizens from Britain as defiance of international law and diplomatic protocol.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Mr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar said that the British authorities had given them only 24 hours to leave Britain and confined their movement during this period to their residence and the airport.

He added that a large number of expellees had been prevented from withdrawing their deposits at British banks.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar challenged the British Government to give any evidence to justify the measure it had taken. He stressed that those expelled had throughout their stay in Britain been fully committed to the law and diplomatic rules.

He added that the British authorities had listed several Iraqis who had left Britain months before, two others who had been transferred to Baghdad six months ago, in addition to an Iraqi student who had completed studies and returned to Baghdad in 1986.

Press Comments on Upcoming 'Decisive Battle'

'All Military Preparations' Ready

JN1001123891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 10 INA—Today's edition of AL-QADISIYAH says that the decisive battle for the nation's goals will require great sacrifices and vast efforts.

In its editorial today, the daily said that the goals to which the Arab nation aspire would be settled in one battle through eliminating all forms of injustice and foreign domain, liberating Palestine, and forcing the enemies to recognize Iraq's legitimate rights to make its own decisions.

The daily added that Iraq's emergence as a powerful force in the Arab homeland had aroused the imperialists' fears, the matter that could explain the motive behind the hostile and opportunist policy the United States is pursuing, in collaboration with its agents, with the aim of obstructing Iraq's development drive.

It concluded that Iraq has given the best example of capability and steadfastness in the face of the U.S.-Western brute force. It stressed that the Iraqi Army has finalized all military preparations for the great battle that would lift social injustice and turn the nation's long-awaited goals into a reality.

Today's AL-THAWRAH confirmed that Iraq is determined to turn any aggression or invasion into a comprehensive historic battle of interrelated goals and slogans.

The daily added that the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression would be deterred not only by Iraq from the mountain to the sea, because the entire Arab homeland would become an open battleground.

It expressed confidence that the overall and decisive victory would be the reward of the gathering of believers, led by Iraq, which would liberate Palestine and all Arabs and Muslims' sanctities and purge the nation of all traitors installed by foreigners.

The paper made it clear that at a time when millions of fighters are aspiring with absolute confidence to victory,

they are eager to fight the battle, ready to make sacrifices, and fully determined to turn the battlefield all over the Arab homeland into a graveyard for the aggressors.

Bush Leading to 'Inescapable Trap'

JN1101091091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has called on Bush to realize that he is leading the United States and the world to a deep abyss and an inescapable trap.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says: Bush is under the illusion, and also gives the world the illusion, that technology will settle the war with Iraq. Iraq's experience, however, as well as the experience of history, confirm that victory can be won only by the resolve of men and their belief in the justness of their cause.

It adds that the Iraqi Army, which shoulders all the honorable heritage of the Arab nation and the responsibility of the human battle, which has in its hands the most modern and lethal weapons, and which is being led by President Saddam Husayn, will not settle for anything less than victory; this will truly be "the mother of battles" because it will be the decisive battle, the one for the return of rights to their rightful owners, the return of the usurped Palestine, and the liberation of the Arab people and wealth.

The paper points out that neither pressures, threats, nor the beating of the drums of war can make Iraq retreat from its independent decision; nor can they affect the Iraqi Army's and people's collective resolve to fight in the "mother of battles."

The paper concludes by saying: The outcome of the battle, which will bring disaster to the invaders and agents, will be for the benefit of the Arab nation and people from the Ocean to the Gulf, who will fight on Iraq's side with all the anger and hate they have for the ugly American and with all determination to regain their rights and liberate their land.

'Mother of Battles' Foreseen

JN0701092191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0714 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that the mother of battles is the battle of the Arab nation to liberate the Arab people from the injustice of the regimes of repression, treason, and corruption which planted in them weakness, frustration, and fear.

In an editorial today, the paper says that Iraq's objectives in this historic battle have become clear and known: namely, to defend Iraq's unity from Zakho to the sea after the restoration of Kuwait to its motherland to remain Iraq's eternal 19th goverenorate; to liberate the usurped Arab land, headed by the land and people of Palestine and the Golan Heights; and to liberate the Arab wealth from the control of the foreigner, corrupt rulers, and foreign domination.

The paper affirms: The objectives of the mother of battles will not be confined to national and pan-Arab boundaries, but its effects and consequences will extend to include all mankind.

The paper recalls the pan-Arab speech delivered by President Saddam Husyan on the heroic Iraqi Army anniversary in which his excellency removed all the clouds that gathered in the sky of the honorable confrontation against all forces of evil, tyranny, and infidelity represented by the United States and its backers and followers everywhere. His excellency declared clearly and unambiguously: We will fight in the mother of all battles, will emerge victorious, and will accept no result but victory.

The newspaper stresses that the confrontation in the mother of battles will be comprehensive and will extend over a long period of time in a manner that guarantees the destruction of all invading forces, headed by the U.S. forces, and guarantees the evacuation of the remainder of these forces covered with wounds to give the United States a taste of defeat for scores of years to come and to deny it the title of sole superpower.

The paper says: Our faith in inevitable victory is not only brought forth or entrenched by the fairness of our cause and the magnitude of sacrifices that we will offer for the sake of this victory, but all circumstances and technical factors related to war operations are in our favor, and the time factor in the mother of battles is in favor of Iraq.

Concluding its editorial, the paper affirms that the Arab nation will occupy its sublime status among nations and will be a source of well-being for all mankind. Likewise, after it emerges victorious from the battle and achieves the results we are seeking, the Iraqi Army will be the army of all mankind.

Liberation of Holy Places Promised

JN0701100691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that Iraq and the faithful gathering are prepared for the great battle against the evil gathering, and that Iraq is ready for the battle of existence and future in the crucial and mother of all battles.

In an editorial today, the paper adds that Iraq is looking forward to the crucial battle with a strong feeling of victory and its inevitability. This is not on the basis of the size of this battle and extent of preparedness only, but also on the basis that, before anything else, this is the historic opportunity which became available to wrench all Arab rights and liberate all holy places from the filth of the greedy invaders.

The paper says: This strong anxiousness filling the souls of the Iraqi people and army is sufficient for this crucial battle, and the rallying of millions of truthful Arabs and a billion faithful Muslims around the victorious and lofty banner in the blessed hand of Saddam Husayn adds to this victory.

The paper indicates that the evil gathering in the opposite trench is fragmented and has no clear objectives. The paper notes that those in the evil gathering are stationed far away from their homelands, knowing that they have been brought to fight for no fair cause.

The paper emphasizes that the Iraqis and all believers will have no peace of mind before the liberation of holy Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem, and the evacuation of the last U.S., alien, or Zionist invader from the land of sanctities.

Turkish Opposition Leader on Gulf Crisis, Linkage

JN0901143891 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 9, INA—President of the Turkish opposition Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) Erdal Inonu confirmed that peace could be achieved in the Middle East only through solving the Palestinian question.

In a statement published today by the weekly magazine 'ALIF BA', Mr Inonu said that the United Nations should give the Palestinians their legitimate rights to an independent state and self-determination and that the Security Council should deal with the region's issues on an equal basis.

Mr Inonu added that prior to the Gulf crisis, the Arab region had gone through many serious problems and crises that could have ignited war at any moment, and that all of them had been left unsolved.

He made it clear that since the occupation of Palestine, the United Nations had issued many resolutions on Palestine, but none of them had been observed.

Mr Inonu stressed that the United States and some Western states had given the priority to Gulf events because they threatened their own interests.

Diplomatically, Mr Inonu added, no state could fight alongside another, only if they were committed to a joint defence treaty, but he said that there had been no such treaty between the United States and the ousted Kuwaiti regime.

He pointed out that Iraq had repeatedly showed sincere willingness to solve the crisis peacefully, referring to President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative of Aug. 12, last, which proposed just solutions to all Middle East outstanding issues.

Mr Inonu confirmed that the United States brushed aside rights of others, for it was solely concerned with protecting its interests in this oil-rich region.

As for the Turkish Government's stance, Mr Inonu said that Turkey got involved in the conflict through statements made by the Turkish Government and other officials. He affirmed that the Turkish people were against war and that they hoped that the crisis would be settled by peaceful means, with no foreign intervention, stressing that the Arabs could solve their own problems by themselves.

'Voice of Free Iraq' Comments on Developments

Saddam's 'Intransigence' Blamed

JN0501192191 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has failed to reach an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis because of Saddam Husayn's intransigence and his conviction that he can defeat the multinational alliance poised against him.

In a statement it issued in London, the Iraqi opposition al-Ummah Party [Hizb al-Ummah] quoted informed sources as saying that Saddam Husayn told the Algerian president that a withdrawal from Kuwait is not a topic for discussion and that he is strongly convinced that the peoples in Syria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Egypt will revolt against their leaders once the allies fire the first shot against Iraq. Saddam Husayn added that the departure of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was caused by their positions on the Gulf crisis. Besides, protests in Congress and demonstrations throughout the United States are signs that President Bush's policy will inevitably collapse. In the wake of this intransigent and stupid position of Saddam Husayn, President Bendjedid decided to cancel his scheduled trip to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and return home.

The statement referred to Saddam Husayn's recall of many of his ambassadors in various parts of the world for consultations early last week. Because Saddam Husayn is well known as a man who does not listen to his ambassadors, and because he has not been satisfied with the performance of some of them during the Gulf crisis, a number of them will face dismissal and detention. He also asked all ambassadors to meet with Iraqi intelligence authorities and the secret police to consult with them on what they should do at their embassies if war breaks out.

The statement added: In the context of war preparations, an attempt was made to evacuate many Baghdad neighborhoods. The statement quoted reliable sources as saying that the secret police launched a large-scale search to arrest Armed Forces deserters when the families were outside their homes. The statement went on to say that only 30 percent of those born in 1957 who were called up

for military service have joined their units. It said that the campaign left a bleak and terrifying atmosphere among the residents of Baghdad.

The statement said that reports from numerous European capitals showed that students on Iraqi Government scholarships are suffering a great deal because of Iraq's financial straits. The statement added that many of these students submitted requests for political asylum in the countries in which they are studying despite knowing that their families will be tortured as a result by Saddam Husayn's fascist police .

Army Urged To Topple Saddam

JN0901211491 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1712 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Political commentary]

[Text] The meeting of the last opportunity has taken place. Everyone in the world is checking his watch to calculate events in hours, even minutes. What will this meeting result in?

The sad part about this boxing round is that it has been turned into a betting arena. Will Baker win or will Tariq Hanna ['Aziz], who was sent by his master after placing a tape recorder inside him; he had no role other than to push the play button. After that, he recorded everything that was said and returned to his master for the latter to choose what befits his ego, dreams, and (?time).

Neither has the ruler reigned nor the judge ruled. Tariq Hanna does not control the decision, nor does Baker himself. A birthday where the birthday child is absent. The birthday child here is the people of Iraq. They are the only ones who have the right to make the decision ending this round and, which under all circumstances, will only favor the only powerful party in this struggle, which is Iraq itself.

Ever since the thugs of Baghdad, Tikrit, and Tall Kayf took control of Iraq, the country has been nothing but a people disarmed of their weapons and seized by their collars by the rest of the world, thus rendering them motionless with the pretext of separating the killer from the victim to give only the killer the freedom of movement, free to carry a knife to plunge it in the heart of the victim.

Who was it that brought Saddam to power? And who blew up this balloon? Who provided him with the means of power, one-man rule, and oppression? In short, who made Saddam's teeth and nails grow, so that they gripped our people from the hands and feet and put them before the tyrant to make him go on robbing, hitting, and striking them.

There was a day when our people warned of his coming, since the first days of the hegemony of the tyrannical clique. We as Iraqis know this illiterate, stupid, empty-headed, and indiscriminate tyrant hankering for money and power better than the rest of the world. Our people know very well that when a madman like Saddam Husayn finds at his disposal money and arms, he will cheat his kinfolk first, then those did him good turns and protected and strengthened him second, and then himself third. This is exactly what is happening today. He is sitting on a powderkeg; in his lap he has a pile of bombs; and in his hand he holds a match. The entire world is screaming, begging, and pleading in the hope that the wolf will change his blood and the satan his skin and heart, and that he would be inspired with the spirit of sacrifice, justice, humanity, and peace, and will hand himself, his sons, brothers, and the rest of his clique over to justice and say, take me.

The body power of the world is confronting Saddam Husayn—the United States, with all the might of its Armed Forces and the most fatal means of killing and destruction ever created by the human mind—while he sits back and watches. Britain, France, and the rest of the countries in Europe and Asia are all surrounding him while he sits back and watches.

The economic siege is torturing the Iraqis. Some have starved already, and some have fallen as a result of fatigue and torture, while Saddam sits back and watches. He knows that, in the final analysis, the two options before him merge into one option, which is the end. If he withdraws from Kuwait, the sword of siege is placed on his neck. If he stays in Kuwait, the weapons of destruction are also a sword over his head. He does not take into account the torment of the Iraqis; nor does he reckon with the homelessness of the Kuwaitis; nor does he take into consideration the world's concern over their destiny or peace. The only thing he gambles on protecting is his empty head.

Oil reservoirs separate the Iraqi soldiers whom Saddam Husayn has forcibly driven to face the world armies, oblivious to their destinies or those of others. Therefore, he must go to the end; he will either choose survival, or one bullet, thus relieving himself and others. This is a disturbing fact. Some people, however, hear only what they want to hear. Neither a meeting between Baker and Tariq Hanna, nor a meeting between Bush and Saddam himself will end the problem, unless Saddam guarantees his survival at the expense of Iraq and the Arabs, which would be a disturbing and heavy nightmare. If he survives the Kuwait impasse, he will most definitely become the superman of the region and one of the supermen of the world.

What is the solution? Political fortune tellers, who we thought knew what they were doing and could read the future for at least 50 years ahead, have been exposed as illiterates. We believed that merely a statement by a junior U.S. State Department officer would be enough to make the most prominent leader in our poor world tremble. We also thought that some European states need no more than one ambassador to frown at one of the empty-headed leaders to make him kneel down, begging for mercy and forgiveness. The bitter fact, however, has been revealed: The world is based on business

and profit and loss. Even if a ruler in the poor world kills half of his people and plunders his entire country, what is important is that profits are not affected and no losses are looming. This is what is taking place now. We are not addressing these words to anybody, neither Saddam Husayn, nor Bush, nor whoever has been saddened by Saddam Husayn's disregard for right, justice, and humanity. This is because all these things, as I said, are not trained boxers in the ring. These words are addressed only to those concerned: to the Iraqi Army, with all its history and heritage, with all its values and heroic deeds, and with all its officers and soldiers.

O heroic army of Iraq: Do you see and hear what is going on around your beloved Iraq? How absurdly matters have turned out? We have become a feather carried away by the wind. We have been humiliated, O army of Iraq, to the extent that the Turkish president has been heard announcing plans to divide Iraq. We even heard some talk about destroying the army and people of Iraq. Do you accept this, our valiant army? Saddam Husayn is striking deals and putting us up for sale, asking in return a price that cannot be paid. The price is our land, dignity, unity, and destiny. Meanwhile, the world assembled around us is also putting us up for sale and asking an impossible price—our sovereignty and the unity of our Iraq.

What are you waiting for? Yes, what are you waiting for, and for how long? The rope is getting tighter, and the death squad is preparing for firing the last bullet on your beloved Iraq. Do you want a bullet of mercy, or will you rise proudly and cry in the face of killers, telling them to hold it! We are the people of this homeland and will not allow a stupid villain or a wild bull to destroy our homeland. We will not allow the mighty powers of the world to erase from the map of Iraq one small stream or one village. Will you strike now, army of Iraq and the Iraqis?

Dissident Officers Urge Opposition to Saddam

PM1001120991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Jan 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Opposition 'Iraqi Officers Movement' Tells Saddam Husayn It Is Mobilizing Military Capabilities and Cadres To Topple Bloodthirsty Regime"]

[Excerpts] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—The opposition "Iraqi Officers Movement" has emphasized its determination to topple the Saddam Husayn regime and work actively toward that by mobilizing capabilities and military cadres opposed to the regime to ensure victory.

A statement issued 6 January by Brigadier Ashraf Al Bu-Salih of the Special Forces said: "The predicament we are experiencing prompts initiative and action in this fateful stage to strengthen military and jihad action for the sake of liberating Iraq." [passage omitted]

The statement listed the following objectives for military action against the regime:

Strengthening resistance action against the regime in Iraq in its jihad form, granting it a role matching the challenges of the present stage and the future requirements and possibilities which might be imposed in the context of the overlap between international interests and the Iraqi cause;

Mobilizing and organizing all Iraqi military cadres and capabilities to play their natural role in opposition political action and in coordinating their efforts to give that action greater strength;

Aspiring to an Iraq dominated by the values of justice and freedom of opinion and isolated from all kinds of dictatorial rule, which refers to the people to choose the political system;

Preparing the revolutionary military cadre to meet the Iraqi Army's future requirements. That Army, as is known, has suffered a great deal from the policy of division pursued by the tyrannical Baghdad regime, from political education based on the one-party policy, and from the measures and schemes of stultification.

The movement concluded its statement by saying: "The predicament being experienced by our beloved country and oppressed people prompt you—and you reject injustice and are the men of July, October, and June—to take an initiative and action at this fateful stage to bolster military and jihad action and participate in its organization. The revolutionary officers movement in Iraq, which is addressing you in its first statement, promises you that it will stand by you in your severe predicament, and that it will continue the struggle march, not only for Iraq's liberation but for the sake of all our national and Islamic issues. God is with us and He has full power and control over His affairs."

Peace Efforts Possible Despite Failure in Geneva

TA1001144591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said this morning that the failure of the Baker-'Aziz talks does not necessarily spell the end of peace efforts. Addressing a meeting of the Women's International Zionist Organization in Tel Aviv, WIZO, Netanyahu was asked whether he nevertheless thinks war is inevitable.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] I don't know. No one knows the mind of Saddam Husayn, but surely that mind must be absorbing today the information that is coming out of Geneva. Tariq 'Aziz must be telling him that the meeting with the Americans was not a picnic, that Mr. Baker was absolutely serious and very firm, that Mr. Bush in his accompanying statements was absolutely serious and firm. If that firmness of the United States—indeed, of the international coalition—penetrates Saddam Husayn's mind, then I think that the chances for war would be substantially reduced.

[Unidentified correspondent] The 15th?

[Netanyahu] Well, we have six days until the ultimatum of the United Nations comes into force, and that's in diplomacy a lot of time.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Netanyahu, are you confident that the United States will continue to resist European efforts to create linkage between the Kuwait crisis and the Palestinian issue?

[Netanyahu] The United States says that it will oppose this, and we have no reason to doubt them.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us about the communications by the Israeli Government with Jordan? Have you warned Jordan about becoming involved in the conflict?

[Netanyahu] We have communicated to Jordan in a variety of ways, especially publicly, our intentions, which are purely defensive. We hope very much that Jordan will not fall into the trap of becoming an active appendage of Saddam Husayn. Our policy has been that we do not want to see Iraqi troops in Jordan, and our policy remains exactly that.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is it likely though that this will happen, in your view?

[Netanyahu] We cannot rule it out and, therefore, we have made our intentions absolutely clear. [end recording]

Shamir Optimistic, But Ready for Gulf Solution

TA1001163191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Israel will support a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis and, as far as Israel is concerned, a positive solution would be one that would not involve it in war and which would lead to further stability in the region. These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon at a memorial ceremony for the victims of the Egoz boat. Our correspondent Eyal Lavi reports:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Israel is not involved in this confrontation between Iraq and almost the whole world, but Israel knows that there is someone who wants to forcefully get it entangled in the whirlpool of the confrontation. Israel has taken the necessary steps of caution. It is ready to face any challenge.

[Lavi] The prime minister shows optimism. There is no reason to panic, he believes. The State of Israel is ready, and upon the declaration of Tariq 'Aziz that the war will start with an attack on Israel, it is getting even more prepared. Shamir is also confident that the United States will not be tempted to add Israel to the price it would pay for a compromise.

[Shamir] Until this day, the position of the U.S. Administration, the President, and his chief aides has been firm and reasonable. It seems to me that nothing could move them from their position. Naturally, however, there always is a small fraction of a chance for other possibilities. In any event, I am certain that the President will not change his stand.

[Lavi] Should the need arise, Shamir will talk to Bush in the near future. In any event, he said, nothing will happen on 15 January. This is merely a date beyond which unusual things could happen. [end recording]

Bush Phones Shamir on Geneva Talks Results

TA1001200991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] U.S. President George Bush telephoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening and expressed his appreciation for the position Israel has adopted during the crisis.

This was reported by our political correspondent 'Immanu'el Halperin. The two men spoke for approximately 10 minutes. The prime minister reiterated Israel's support for U.S. policy. Bush briefed Shamir on the results of the meeting in Geneva between Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. This is the first time that the U.S. President has directly telephoned the prime minister since the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

Secretary of State Baker also briefed the prime minister and the foreign minister today on his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz.

Arens on Chances of De Cuellar Visit; Iraqi Threat

TA1001160891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Amir Fink]

[Text] This is not the first time that we have heard threats such as those issued yesterday by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, asserted Defense Minister Moshe Arens. I think, added the minister, that there is no cause for great fear; however, one must be ready for anything. I cannot say that the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's initiative has no chance of succeeding. I wish him the best, said Arens, but I would not pin too many hopes on his trip.

[Begin Arens recording] I would not pin too many hopes on that, even though we all hope that a solution can be found without needing to use force. [end recording]

I hope, the defense minister said, that every day that goes by is not bringing us closer to war.

[Begin Arens recording] The U.S. force deployed in the Gulf area, especially the aerial forces, have a very great scope. I think that this is the greatest aerial deployment ever concentrated in one region, including World War II. The aerial deployment there is even larger than the Israeli Air Force, and I think that they can cause tremendous damage in a very short time. [sentence as heard]

Minister Arens spoke to correspondents at the annual memorial service for Jewish martyrs in Iraq. Since the establishment of the state, 18 Jews have been hanged in Iraq, ten were murdered in prison, and another seven were murdered under other circumstances. Twenty-five additional Iraqi Jews are missing and their fate is still unknown.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 10 January reports that "the defense minister today said that Israel is ready and better prepared today for any development in the region than at the time the crisis erupted five months ago." The report adds that "the defense minister sought to allay the public's fears and said that Iraq certainly has no nuclear option. It may have the option of chemically arming its missiles; however, Israel has taken that into account and is prepared."]

Arens Establishes Emergency Information Forum

TA1101111791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jan 91 p A3

[Report by 'Irit Rosenblum and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In accordance with Defense Minister Moshe Arens' decision, the defense establishment yesterday set up a special body called the Coordination, Information, and Emergency Forum. The new forum will be chaired by the defense minister and managed by the minister's media adviser, Dani Nave. Members of the forum are the chief of the General Staff, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] generals, the IDF spokesman, the defense minister's media adviser, and other elements.

The forum's first decision was to institute a daily media appearance of Army generals and senior officers who will explain policies and update on the situation. [passage omitted]

Israel Television Director Yosef Bar'el has advised the Education and Culture Ministry that in a state of emergency, he plans to broadcast newscasts every two hours. The defense, education and culture, communications, and police ministers will meet on Sunday to discuss and decide on the coordination of radio and television newscasts transmission during a state of emergency. [passage omitted]

Levi Outlines Gulf Position in Message to EC

TA1101115491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has dispatched messages to the three EC ministers and to the British foreign secretary, in which he stated: Even after the hopes we had for the Baker-'Aziz meeting were dashed as a result of Iraq's intransigent stand, we continue to hope that Saddam will respond positively to the international community's appeal, go back on his act of aggression, and evacuate Kuwait. We further hope, said Levi, that the international community will strip him of the weapons with which he menaces the region and Israel and make certain that Saddam's arsenal, which is what imbues him with a sense of security and allows him to challenge the region, is dismantled.

Foreign Minister Levi added: In adopting the low profile policy, we have heeded our European friends' counsel, but if we are attacked—as Saddam Husayn has said—we will defend ourselves. This is Foreign Minister Levi's message to the European troika.

Civil Defense Issues 'More Stringent' Orders

TA1101055591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The defense establishment has decided to issue more stringent civil defense instructions and has informed the public that when it hears air raid sirens, it should act as though a chemical attack is under way. In other words, the public should not enter underground shelters, but don gas masks and enter a sealed room.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Civil Defense commander called on the public to have sealed rooms prepared in advance. He said there is no way to discern whether missiles are carrying chemical warheads; therefore, any missile attack will be regarded as a chemical attack. A mistake in differentiating between a regular missile and a missile bearing a chemical warhead would be fatal; therefore, the defense establishment has decided to tighten defense procedures.

The Civil Defense commander said that the number of reservists called up for duty has been increased fivefold. He said that Israel has an answer for any possible threat,

including a biological threat, and the public should not take any measures on its own against the possibility of such a attack.

Classrooms Ordered Sealed; 'Major' Call-Up Denied

TA1101114191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Education Ministry Director General Zvulun Orlev has ordered all classrooms to be sealed to protect them against the eventuality of a chemical attack. This is to get under way on Sunday [13 January]. This is the latest directive in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] campaign to reassure the public that Israel is ready for any eventuality and to explain how to individuals so as to prepare themselves. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami sums up: [passage omitted]

The Civil Defense authorities have prepared pamphlets, books, TV broadcasts, and public notices to inform the public how to go about protecting themselves and their homes from the danger of chemical warfare: what to prepare, and how to use it. Information and protective kits for people are being distributed already to Civil Defense stations and community centers. People seeking information are advised to contact Civil Defense or local authorities in their area, but the Civil Defense Command has its central information switchboard in Tel Aviv.

Civil Defense Commander Brigadier Manos says the Civil Defense authorities have carried out extensive drills in recent months and are well prepared to deal with any eventuality, and he and other military officers caution against overreaction or rumor.

Senior military sources are firmly denying media reports of a major call-up in the country. They are reiterating that while appropriate military units, such as the Air Force, Civil Defense, and Intelligence, have all been on an alert status for some time now, no significant changes have occurred in Israel's defense posture of late. They also say that while Jordan has deployed troops and tanks along its border with Israel, both the Jordanian forces and the Israeli units on this side of the border are on defensive postures. Jordan knows that we have no intention of initiating any offensive action against them or indeed against anyone in the region, says one senior military source.

Air Force Commander Views War Scenarios

TA1001200091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Interview with Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, Air Force commander, by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky; at an unspecified Air Force base, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, commander of the Air Force, does the Iraqi threat to Israel, now that the Geneva talks have failed, seem serious?

[Ben-Nun] First of all, we take it seriously. Whether or not it is serious depends on what the Iraqis will be able to do. They have a large air force; they have experience gained in their war against Iran, but we are also ready and know how to respond.

[Shlonsky] What does an Air Force ready and able to respond mean?

[Bin-Nun] The Air Force has been on high alert and readiness for the past several months. We are on alert: pilots are sitting in the planes, as you can see; our anti-aircraft batteries are stationed on the front lines in immediate operational positions and, in my opinion, we will be able to stop any Iraqi attack on the State of Israel.

[Shlonsky] There is talk about the Iraqis having upgraded planes such as the Sukhoi-24 and missiles that, at their maximum range, could reach Israel. What damage could the missiles cause if they indeed reach Israel?

[Bin-Nun] A surface-to-surface missile is nothing more than a single bomb, while a single airplane could carry up to six or eight similar bombs. When such a missile hits a house, it could damage one room or one apartment. This is roughly the damage it could cause. For example, in the Iran-Iraq war such missiles caused some five to 10 casualties for each missile that hit downtwon Tehran or Baghdad.

[Shlonsky] In the cities?

[Bin-Nun] In the cities, which are crowded, as we all know.

[Shlonsky] How about the possibility of Iraqi planes penetrating our airspace?

[Bin-Nun] Iraqi planes could penetrate through Jordan. They could come at low altitudes and carry a large cargo of bombs. To deal with that, we have the Air Force, which will be able to provide good protection for Israel's skies.

[Shlonsky] Last weekend, it was published in the United States that Israel began receiving the Patriot missiles it promised at the onset of the crisis. Could you confirm this?

[Bin-Nun] It is true. We began getting the two Patriot batteries that President Bush designated for us. I believe that the Patriot missiles will be able to provide a good answer to the aerial and missile threat.

[Shlonsky] Do you believe today that the chances of an Israeli involvement in the Gulf, if there is war, are higher after the failure of the Geneva talks?

[Bin-Nun] Israel has no interest in getting involved in the Gulf or in fighting against Jordan, Syria, or anybody else. At the same time, if the Iraqis implement their endless threats, we will know how to defend ourselves and to provide such a response that would kill their desire to do that in the future.

[Shlonsky] Are you pleased with the level of cooperation with your U.S. counterparts?

[Bin-Nun] I cannot comment on this at this stage.

[Shlonsky] There is talk of absolute U.S. aerial supremacy in the Gulf. Can this promise them a decisive victory within a few hours?

[Bin-Nun] I would not use the phrase in a few hours, but we certainly can compare the U.S. supremacy in the Iraqi desert to that which prevailed here in the Six Day War. Aerial supremacy, if it is obtained fast—and the Americans have the technical ability to do that—could bring a swift victory over the Iraqis.

[Shlonsky] Is it possible that in a certain war scenario the Jordanian Air Force would operate against Israel, which would mean shorter ranges, naturally?

[Bin-Nun] We have to take into account the possibility that the Jordanian Air Force will join the campaign against us, although we believe that they have no good reason for that and they will not do that. If they do join military operations against us, it would make it a greater problem for us, but we will be able to confront it in a satisfactory manner.

[Shlonsky] Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun, thank you.

Baker-'Aziz Meeting Failure Said 'Expected'

TA1001180391 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Meeting's Failure Was Expected!"]

[Text] The failure of the meeting held yesterday in Geneva between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his U.S. counterpart James Baker was not unexpected, despite the climate of optimism which many sought to generate around the meeting. It is very natural for the meeting to have failed, because through it Washington wanted to impose its commands and directives on the Iraqi side. As Baker made clear, the purpose of the meeting was not negotiations or an exchange of views, but to demand that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, otherwise the alternative would be war.

The U.S. Administration began beating the drums of war at the outset of the Gulf crisis and massed its forces to scare Iraq, which is preparing for war just as it is ready for peace. The threatening statements which the Americans have been uttering all along do not reflect any desire to resolve the crisis peacefully, but only exacerbate the situation in such a way that any country respecting itself, such as Iraq, cannot but accept the challenge.

We, the Palestinians, having suffered more than others from instability and war, hope that the officials in the White House will rise to the level of the responsibility they bear as leaders of a superpower and exert their efforts toward establishing peace in other parts of the world.

The Iraqi position has been clear since Iraq announced its initiative of 12 August. This initiative calls for ending occupation in the region, foremost of all the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan Heights.

Now that the Americans have displayed political exhaustion, the responsibility for establishing a comprehensive peace in the region lies with European countries, particularly France, by proposing an initiative that takes into consideration the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Commentary Says 'Fuse of War' in Gulf Lit

TA1001150691 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by 'Oded Granot: "The Fuse of War Has Been Lit"]

[Text] The fuse of war in the Persian Gulf was lit last night in Geneva. The explosion could occur in less than a week, perhaps slightly later.

The failure of the last opportunity may be summed up by saying that both sides dug in their heels, and that two deaf men who cannot hear each other held a dialogue. While James Baker demanded a full Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, Tariq 'Aziz replied with a tedious description of the problems of the region; while Baker elaborated on the military might of the troops amassed against Iraq, 'Aziz spoke about an "Arab solution" to the Gulf crisis.

Six hours of sterile talks in Geneva not only exposed the immense gap in the positions of the sides, but it also showed that this crisis is tainted with an emotional dimension entailed in the rivalry between two leaders. 'Aziz refused to accept Bush's letter to his president because it was written in "impolite language." On the other hand, Bush spoke about Saddam in terms of almost personal hostility, describing him as "a dictator living under a delusion" who does not understand what he is bringing upon himself and the world.

The bottom line of the failure in Geneva is that both sides actually exhausted what they had to say to each other. The risk of war in the Gulf has now increased many times, and the only chance of extinguishing the fuse before it lights the powder keg is in the hands of the UN secretary general and the EC leaders. In the time left until 15 January, they will try to provide Saddam with a hole to creep out of the big mess he got himself into.

There is no reason to downplay 'Aziz's threats to attack Israel if a war breaks out in the region but, by the same token, there is no reason to panic. In addition to knowing that Israel is capable of replying in kind to any Iraqi attempt to attack us, we should derive encouragement from Bush's statement last night that any Iraqi action against Israel would be considered overt aggression as well as from his opposition to any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians.

Geneva Meeting Said Cover for Aggression on Iraq

TA1001175091 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What Will Happen After the Collapse of the Geneva Talks?"]

[Text] Has war in the Gulf become definite and inevitable following the deadlock reached at the Baker-'Aziz talks yesterday?

This and other questions about the future of the world's map, which will be sketched after 15 January, are again occupying the attention of observers of the extremely explosive situation in the Gulf region, especially since the U.S. Administration has not budged and does not intend to budge one bit from its aggressive, evil, and conspiratorial aims against Arab Iraq. These threats were reflected in the U.S. President's remarks following the conclusion of the Geneva talks last evening. The President repeated his threats against Iraq by calling for a speedy and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Whereas until yesterday evening the eyes and hearts of the entire world were focused on Geneva where the so-called "last chance" talks between the Iraqi and U.S. foreign ministers were held, today the world's eyes are focused on the Gulf, where the explosion now seems imminent in the wake of Secretary Baker's alarming intransigence and cowboy arrogance, reflected in his threat to fuel a war in the region at or shortly after the deadline.

Thus, Secretary Baker's persistence in using the extortionist U.S. language, which has been the norm since the beginning of the crisis, and his categorical rejection of any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem, reveal without the slightest doubt that Bush and his White House ruling clique, as well as the Western and Arab countries standing with him in the unholy alliance, are scheming to wage war against Iraq and the Arab nation. Hence, the meeting held in Geneva yesterday was only a cover to justify aggression, which will be fueled by the flesh of Americans and the fires of which will burn all over the Arab homeland.

Therefore, after the aggressive and evil U.S. designs against Iraq and the Arab nation have been exposed, the duty of all the faithful in the Arab homeland is to stand in the Iraqi trench to defend and protect the nation's honor. It is one of two privileges: Either victory or martyrdom.

Eagleburger To Arrive; Baker Sends Letter to Levi

TA1001182091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Despite the fact that the world media provided extensive reports on yesterday's Baker-'Aziz meeting, the United States finds it right to brief Israel at length about what took place there, and perhaps on what is still expected. Within a few days, the U.S. will send Lawrence Eagleburger, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, here to brief Israel in face to face meetings. Also, a letter came today to Foreign Minister David Levi from Secretary of State James Baker. The bottom line of the letter, in which Baker provides an account of his discussion with 'Aziz yesterday, says that he made it clear to the Iraqis that they need to leave Kuwait or else they will be expelled from it by force. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

At this time there is still no official confirmation in Israel for this, but U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger will apparently come to Israel to brief it on the situation following the Baker-'Aziz meeting, and in view of 15 January. Eagleburger did not attend the Geneva meeting.

U.S. Ambassador in Israel William Brown this morning arrived at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and delivered a message to Foreign Minister David Levi from Secretary of State Baker. In the message, Baker details his meetings with Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva. He makes clear his determined warning to Iraq that it should comply with the call of the international community to leave Kuwait, or else it will be expelled from it by force. The Iraqi leadership must free itself of any illusion or misunderstanding, Baker says. He adds that he made it clear to 'Aziz that the international community is determined to bring about a full Iraqi withdrawal, and reestablish Kuwaiti sovereignty and government.

Baker also said that he unequivocally rejected the Iraqi demand to link the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian issue. I told 'Aziz that Iraq did not invade Kuwait to help the Palestinian problem; to the contrary: the invasion yielded only the opposite results, Baker tells Levi in the message he relayed today. More details will probably be supplied by the secretary's emissary, who is due to arrive in Israel in the next few days.

No Israeli Missiles Observed in South Lebanon

TA1101095591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, who is currently in southern Lebanon, said that no Israeli missiles have been spotted from UN observation posts in the region, as Lebanese newspapers have been claiming. Lebanese newspapers have reported daily for the past two weeks that Israel has installed six long-range missiles in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Goulding leaves today for Damascus and will arrive in Jerusalem on Sunday. He said that his tour of the region is linked to the renewal of the mandate of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon in late January.

Warning Against Increased Palestinian Violence

TA1001115891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Shmu'el Goren, the outgoing coordinator of government activities in the territories, today warned the

residents of the territories against an increase in violence in case of war in the Gulf. Our correspondent in the territories, Udi Segal, reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] We know there is incitement; we hear there are efforts to take advantage of the Gulf crisis to work people up so that we find ourselves involved in the crisis. This was stated by Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, who added that Israel will surely be unable to tolerate a consequent increase in violence. The coordinator was speaking before hundreds of notables and mayors from Judaea and Samaria, who came to a farewell ceremony held in Goren's honor upon the conclusion of his term as coordinator. Goren said they must do everything they can to prevent ferment in the territories. He said this as a civilian and a friend, and his remarks constitute an explanation rather than a warning.

[Goren] If and when a war breaks out here, God forbid, and the local population responds favorably to calls by provocateurs, the people may find themselves in a very difficult situation; therefore, I thought I had better relay this message to them as an ex-coordinator, rather than officially.

[Segal] The coordinator doubts the ability of these notables to influence matters, but said he hopes the message will be relayed to the rest of the population.

Referring to the evolution of affairs in the Gulf and to preparations for gas attacks, the coordinator said residents in the territories are not exhibiting anxiety about missiles with chemical warheads.

[Goren] We do not believe the territories will be a target for air or gas attacks, although we have adopted several precautions nonetheless. The population itself is not panicking. They surely understand they will not be a target for aerial attacks.

[Segal] Shmu'el Goren expressed his satisfaction with this meeting, which followed the inauguration of new licensing offices in Ramallah. [end recording]

Milo Warns Israeli Arabs on Disturbing Security

TA1001145991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo believes that the Israeli Arabs would act wisely, if war breaks out. At the same time, he warned them and the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza that if they try to damage the deployment of the rear and disturb police and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities, the response to that will be determined and very harsh.

In reply to a question, he said that, should the need arise, the police will change the orders on opening fire. Minister Milo made these remarks at the Police Academy in Shefar'am.

Milo, Peretz Back Unity Government Idea

TA1001154191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] In light of the concern over the possible eruption of a war in the Gulf, there is again talk about establishing a national unity government. This time the idea has been raised by ministers belonging to the coalition. Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo said that one could assume that the government would want to bolster its ranks and establish a national unity government as was the custom during previous periods of war.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz called for the establishment of a unity government that would be capable of coping with situations that could pose difficult and complex challenges to the state, in view of the danger of war. He was speaking in Haifa. He expressed the belief that no time should be wasted in setting up a unity government before war actually breaks out. It is sufficient that the situation today seems to be moving toward war and all forces in the country should unite at once.

Labor Party Secretary Mikha Harish called for the immediate establishment of a coordination and briefing system between the government and the opposition parties, in view of the deterioration in the Gulf. All of Israel would stand united against any aggression, whether this came from Iraq or from any other party, he clarified to our correspondent Shlomo Raz. He pointed out that he was not referring to a unity government.

King Husayn Pays Visits to Italy, Luxembourg

Reportage on King's Tour

WA1101130391

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to Italy and Luxembourg please see the Italy & Vatican City and Benelux sections of the 10 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

King Husayn Returns

JN1001175191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this afternoon after a working visit to Britain, Germany, Luxembourg, and Italy. During the visit, his majesty met with these countries' leaders and senior officials to discuss the Gulf crisis and current international efforts to find a peaceful solution in order to avoid a destructive war in the region. His majesty also discussed relations between Jordan and these countries, and ways to promote them in all areas. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Reviews Tour

JN1001202291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening after a working visit to Britain, Germany, Luxembourg, and Italy. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, who accompanied his Majesty King Husayn on his visit, talked to journalists about his majesty's tour. Our correspondent, Khalil al-Qaryuti, provided us with the details.

[al-Qaryuti] As part of his efforts since the onset of the Gulf crisis to find a peaceful solution and save the region from war, His Majesty King Husayn met with leaders and ranking officials of Britain, Germany, Luxembourg, and Italy and discussed the Gulf crisis, as well as international efforts to avert a destructive war. His majesty also discussed relations between Jordan and these countries and ways to bolster them in all fields.

On the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri told journalists:

[Begin recording] [al-Masri] It was a successful visit and came at a time when everyone was interested in learning about his majesty's opinion and efforts to reach a political solution to the Gulf crisis. His majesty evaluated the situation with the leaders of the countries he visited. We found that there is great understanding of the Jordanian position which differs from earlier thinking. There is a common understanding about the need to reach a political solution because the results of the war will be destructive, not only on the human level, but also on politically, economically, and socially.

We found an excellent sympathy for Jordan. The Jordanian and European effort will continue in a concentrated, joint, serious, and quick way during the coming few hours and days to avoid the effects of war.

To start with, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will visit Jordan tomorrow, God willing. Afterward, Jordanian efforts will be launched in various directions before 15 January.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, how do you see the situation now, especially after the talks between the Iraqi and U.S. foreign ministers failed?

[al-Masri] I do not believe that what happened yesterday is the end. I believe that European countries will once again try to start a dialogue that, incidentally, was not halted. Neither Baker's words nor 'Aziz's words indicate that yesterday's talks were the end of the road. Some European countries, his majesty the king, and other Arab parties will try to reach a solution. The door has not been closed completely shut.

[Reporter] Could we say that there will be an Arab-European initiative?

[al-Masri] We cannot say that in specific. However, there are extensive efforts which are serious and fast moving from all sides.

[Reporter] What is your view of the European stand at this point in time?

[al-Masri] Very understanding; understanding of the dangers, understanding of the need to reach a peaceful solution, understanding—or insistence rather—on implementing the UN Security Council resolutions, all of them. [end recording]

King Reportedly To Start Arab Tour Soon

JN1101104691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jan 91 p 1

[By the political affairs editor]

[Excerpt] AL-RA'Y can confirm that His Majesty King Husayn will head an intensive political move within the next few days following his majesty's return yesterday from a European tour during which he held contacts with the leaders of the countries he visited to discuss the means to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis and avert a military confrontation in the region.

His majesty said the day before yesterday that "the world must not feel frustrated because the Geneva talks between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign ministers have failed." His majesty added: "It will be wrong to feel frustrated, and we must not submit to the inevitability of war because there are still a few days left."

On the basis of this statement, which his majesty made before his talks the day before yesterday with Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti in Rome, his majesty

will continue to pool efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully. The king said the lengthy talks between Baker and 'Aziz may "have a positive effect" in spite of their failure.

Jordanian political sources believe that "the Iraqi minister and the U.S. secretary have not closed the door before continuing dialogue between the two parties to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, and that the failure of talks does not mean that war is inevitable." These sources add that "the chances for achieving peace have not increased, but neither have they been exhausted."

According to those sources, the Jordanian political action which will be led by His Majesty King Husayn will include a number of sisterly Arab states with the aim of finding the appropriate means to resolve the crisis peacefully and spare the region the perils of war, in order not to make the Arab land an arena for military operations that will bring about major damage and devastation, and to bolster the Arab position vis-a-vis the growing Israeli threats.

Observers in Amman expect a number of European political figures to visit Amman within the framework of a European move to avert war. The sources believe that the European action will take place on the level of the United Nations and the European Community and may be useful to avert war and its perils.

The next few days, even the next few hours, are very serious and critical and require that all Arab officials, irrespective of their stands, rise to the highest degree of national and pan-Arab responsibility and think deeply about the consequences should military confrontation take place. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said Responsible for Talks Failure, War

JN1101095791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Premeditated Failure in Geneva"]

[Text] It seems the story of the U.S. offer to hold talks with Iraq and to invite Tariq 'Aziz to meet with his American counterpart and the extension of the negotiations between the two sides for a longer period than expected is no more than a long American movie whose scenarios have been well-planned in order to serve the U.S. Administration's domestic policy and position vis-a-vis the Congress, which opposes Bush's military plans in the Gulf.

It is obvious that the American side had come to Geneva without any good will and that it held talks with the Iraqi side while having this failure in mind so it could come out and claim to world public opinion, especially U.S. public opinion, that the U.S. Administration had tried its best to reach a political settlement of the crisis, but the firm, clear stand adopted by the Iraqi side had prevented the attainment of the desired results.

Perhaps, a quick return to the series of U.S. statements preceding the Geneva meeting, especially those made by Bush and Baker, would definitely show that the Americans had come to Geneva with the aim of dictating their terms to Iraq and giving it a choice between withdrawal or war; in other words, between complete surrender and fighting a long, costly battle.

So, it was only natural for Iraq to reject the U.S. policy of threats and to stick to its initiative which calls for resolving all existing crises in this part of the world and achieving a historic comprehensive political settlement that ends wars and tensions and establishes justice, right, and lasting peace in the Middle East.

However, the war and domination tendency possessing the U.S. Administration's mind and soul had influenced the course of the talks in Geneva, thereby leading to the failure of this meeting and placing the entire Middle East, if not the whole world, before the dangers of a conflagration which could scorch the face of the earth and cause heavy damage to the world economy, environment, and civilization, and loss of human lives.

While we consider the failure of the Geneva meeting as an obvious outcome of the policy of threats which lack all feelings of the importance of justice, right, and peace for the peoples of the region, we hold the U.S. Administration responsible for this premeditated and pre-planned failure. We also hold it responsible from now on for the consequences of any conflagration in the region, which is sitting on an oil lake that could quickly go up in flames.

Outcome of Baker-'Aziz Talks Said 'No Surprise'

JN1001120191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Geneva Meeting Fails and Iraq Is Ready For All Possibilities"]

[Text] The Geneva Iraqi-U.S. meeting failed exactly as President Bush wanted it to.

Naturally, this failure neither surprised Iraq and the Arab nation nor the majority of world nations, since it was obvious right from the start that the Bush administration was only concerned about one issue in the region and considered all others as not urgent. The United States was only concerned about Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoring its status before 2 August. It also wanted to destroy Iraq's weapons and trim down its political, economic, and military power. Moreover, it wanted to communicate Bush's message conveying his threats to spark war if Iraq did not meet his conditions.

It is clear from the Geneva meeting proceedings as reported by 'Aziz and Baker to the press that the Bush administration is not at all interested in achieving just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region and does not respect the region's aspirations to restore security and stability by resolving its pressing issues, headed by the Palestine question.

It is clear that the Bush administration persists in its double standards and selectivity when dealing with international legitimacy.

As 'Aziz said, the Bush administration is forcibly implementing the Security Council resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis and ignoring those concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question. The Bush administration is also determined to destroy Iraq's military power, impose an economic and technological blockade on Iraq, and starve its people and children while continuing to support Israel's attempt to maintain military superiority over the Arab nation.

These are the exact implications and substance of the U.S. position at Geneva. It is the same position taken by the Bush administration many times before. This was its position before and after 2 August.

As for the Iraqi reply to this, as expressed by 'Aziz, it was sufficient and unequivocal. He affirmed that Iraq will not submit to threats, that it is ready to face the worst possibilities, that it will reply to aggression violently, and that it will begin by striking at Israel.

'Aziz added that Iraq refuses to be treated as a small state that submits to humiliation, injustice, and persecution. He reaffirmed that the region's issues are interlinked and cannot be separated and that the Palestine question is an issue of Iraqi national and pan-Arab security.

'Aziz tried to eliminate the many delusions in Baker's head and in his administration by explaining that Iraq has not made and will not make any miscalculation, and that Iraq and its leadership are fully aware of all the facts.

For instance, Iraq knows the meaning of the U.S. and Atlantic military presence in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. It also knows very well what President Bush's threats mean. The proof came quickly and clearly from President Saddam Husayn when he said that, if the Americans fall into the trap and become involved in a war wanted for them by Zionism, they will swim in their blood in the Arabian desert.

As 'Aziz said, the decision of war or peace is now in Bush's hands. It is up to him to chose between war or a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Public Freedoms Committee Meets Mudar Badran

JN0701082091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Parliament's Public Freedoms and Civil Rights Committee met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday and discussed questions related to the reinstatement of employees barred from assuming public office because of their political orientations among other issues.

"We discussed with the prime minister the following questions: citizens dismissed from their jobs on political grounds, those who have not been appointed because of their political affiliations, citizens serving jail terms because of political reasons, questions related to martial law and citizens barred from entering Jordan," said Ahmad al-Azayidah, the committee's chairman, following the meeting.

The prime minister told Parliament on Dec. 19 that his government was determined to reinstate all those dismissed for political reasons, and noted that 68 per cent of all those who applied for reappointment had been reinstated.

These number around 372 persons out of a total of 544 who applied for reemployment in government offices, the prime minister said in his statement to Parliament.

According to al-Azayidah, only 45 per cent of the total number of the dismissed persons have been reinstated though the government had pledged to reinstate all by the end of last year.

Al-Azayidah said that his committee had submitted to the prime minister a detailed report of the situation revealing that those returned to their posts do not enjoy the same privileges and rights like their colleagues while those dismissed from their work in the private sector had not been reinstated at all.

Agreement was reached with the prime minister for the dismissed persons to be reinstated and for those already employed to be fairly treated.

Agreement was reached on studying the cases of all persons serving jail terms and improving conditions in jails and allowing more freedoms for visitors, according to al-Azayidah. He said that the government had promised to consider issuing special pardon for those jailed for political reasons.

The prime minister said that he would give clear instructions to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to take measures designed to ensure the reinstatment of all the employees dismissed from their jobs for political reasons.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Badran also stressed that the government was committed to cancelling the martial law and announced that the government, in the coming few days, woud announce extra measures in this regard.

Junblatt Resigns; Cites 'Private Reasons'

NC1101101991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1009 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] We have just received a report that Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt has announced his resignation from the government and has stopped being involved in political action for private reasons. [passage omitted]

Sasin To Take Labor Minister Responsiblities

NC1001194591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said that he received a phone call from Minister of Labor Michel Sasin informing him of his decision to assume his portfolio. For this purpose Minister Sasin has chosen the Ministry of Housing building in al-Ashrafiyah as his headquarters.

Sasin Denies Decision

NC1101081191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Circles close to Minister Dr. George Sa'adah have denied Prime Minister 'Umar Karami's statement that Minister Michel Sasin told Karami that he has decided to take up his post in the government. They said that what Sasin told Karami on the telephone was misunderstood. The telephone conversation focused on moving the Labor Ministry employees out of the government house. Prime Minister Karami asked Sasin where these employees will go after moving out. Sasin said that they will use the offices of the Housing Ministry. Therefore, Karami thought that Minister Sasin would discharge his duties from the Housing Ministry.

Minister Sasin has denied that he has decided to join the government while his colleagues Ministers Ja'ja' and Sa'adah stay out.

Envoy Says USSR To Wait Before Approving War

NC1001183091 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Soviet Union approves of the UN Security Council resolution on the use of force to expel Iraq from Kuwait. In a radio statement, the press adviser at the Soviet Embassy in Beirut said that his country nevertheless supports continued efforts to find a peaceful settlement for the crisis even if this requires more time.

The Soviet diplomat warned that if war breaks out in the Gulf, where there is a huge array of military forces, it will be very costly for all the states in the region, above all Iraq. Therefore, the Soviet Union will wait [yatarayyath] before saying yes to war.

Al-Hirawi Reviews Army Deployment in South

NC1101110191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] After his meeting with the diplomatic corps and the representatives of the UN organizations yesterday, President Ilyas al-Hirawi received the consular corps in Lebanon today. President al-Hirawi told them that the Lebanese state has taken matters firmly in hand and declared an end to the war in Lebanon. He emphasized that the Lebanese Army and security forces are the sole authority on security matters in all of the Lebanese territories.

Referring to the south, President al-Hirawi said: The cabinet has decided to deploy the Army to the south not for the purpose of war, but on the basis of the truce concluded between us and Israel and to enable the Lebanese state to request the brothers and friends to implement Resolution 425. He indicated that the Army will be sent to the south to cooperate with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to enable the people in the south to return to the state's fold.

Amal Leader Interviewed on Army Deployment

PM1001101791 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 11 Jan 91 pp 18-19

[Interview with Dr. Ayyub Humayyid, chairman of Amal Movement Executive Committee and director general of the Lebanese Information Ministry, by Joseph al-Hunud in Beirut; date not given: "Reconciliation Steps Must Speeded Up To Safeguard Ourselves Against Regional Changes"]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hunud] What about the situation in the Iqlim al-Tuffah? The Army has not moved in there, the Al-Luwayzah issue is being raised, and the Damascus agreement seems to have been a failure.

[Humayyid] In the second Damascus agreement there is a pledge by the parties to the conflict to facilitate the Army's task as far as they can. There has been no objection to the Lebanese Army's arrival in any position. In fact, there has been absolute agreement to facilitate the Army's task and enable it to get there. The second Damascus agreement, sponsored by the Syrian Arab Republic and the Iranian Republic, has initiated positive phases through the daily steps implemented in practice. I do not limit the positive aspects to the cease-fire, which is still being observed. The media campaign too has been suspended, and this is still the case. There is also the process of a reduction in the armed presences of the various groups in the Iqlim al-Tuffah, as well as the subject of supplies and repairs to water and power networks. These are some of the positive aspects realized through the Damascus agreement.

Regarding the subject of some villages, which are subject to give and take, I believe that it is possible to iron out that obstacle to enable the Lebanese Army to move into every area. It is natural to say that there are two views on

that area, that is, in relation to the resistance and ways of continuing it. We believe that the Lebanese Army's deployment will be an obstacle to the continuation of resistance action. It is obvious to say that resistance action is not confined to a certain area. In fact, the entire front line with the Israeli enemy throughout Lebanese territory is a vital field for resistance action.

Thus I believe that it is possible to arrive at a positive step that would enable the Lebanese Army to deploy throughout the area and at the same time enable the people to return to rebuild their homes and cultivate their land. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hunud] What stage has the "Greater Beirut" Plan reached? Have its elements been completed, or are there obstacles to it?

[Humayyid] With regard to obstacles, true, there was delay in implementing the Greater Beirut Plan endorsed by the Council of Ministers, but it has eventually been implemented. I do not believe that there are any obstacles now facing the legitimate authorities, and the Lebanese security forces are backed by the Syrian Arab forces with regard to securing greater Beirut or storming any place suspected of containing illegal arms. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hunud] Do you believe that that plan will be completed, and to what extent can local, regional, and international conditions be withstood?

[Humayyid] Regardless of the changes which may take place, whether at the regional or Israeli levels or anywhere else, the Lebanese people have a national duty, namely to work to establish peace and restore security and stability to their homeland. I believe that the resources of moral and material support, especially those offered by sister Syria, will enable the Lebanese to work earnestly to acquire what can be acquired at this stage.

We must not pay too much attention to the changes taking place around us. We Lebanese must have the will to continue the process of strengthening the security and political steps and at the same time rebuild the homeland, which has suffered destruction and war. [passage omitted]

Sa'adah Not To Attend Cabinet Meetings

NC1001075791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Minister George Sa'adah has stated: We will not participate in the cabinet meetings, and we will mantain our present position until the disputed matters are resolved through constructive dialogue and debate in the interest of the homeland and the al-Ta'if agreement, and not in the interest of individuals.

In an interview with AL-LIWA', Minister Sa'adah added: Meetings and consultations will be held on various levels to adopt the appropriate stand. We say to the government: Congratulations. Congratulations to Lebanon, if this government is in its interest.

Minister Sa'adah went on to say: I would like, however, to praise the bold stands adopted by my colleague deputies at the session during which the government policy statement was discussed. We had expected this. Therefore, meetings with President al-Hirawi and Speaker al-Husayni and the rest of the colleagues will continue.

Minister Sa'adah met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker yesterday evening. They reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and the Phalangist Party's stand on this situation.

According to press reports, Crocker promised to follow up on Sa'adah's remarks on the government situation.

French Ambassador on Army Deployment in South

NC1101105791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Following his meeting today with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala expressed his positive understanding of the intended step to deploy the Lebanese Army in south Lebanon.

Ambassador Ala said this step agrees with our wishes. He further said that this step is possible and reasonable and that it lies within the jurisdiction of the Lebanese state. [passage omitted]

Increased Israeli Activity Reported in South

Planes Overfly Beirut

NC1001132491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1155 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes continued their sorties over the south and all along the southern coast this morning. These planes broke the sound barrier over Sidon, Beirut, and the mountain at around 1100 today.

Forces Said on 'Highest Alert'

NC1001175591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border zone, the Israeli troops there were put on the highest alert last night. Intensive movements by Israeli armored groups were reported this morning along the Israeli-Lebanese borders. Two M-113 personnel carriers, led by six infantrymen, were spotted advancing along the Arnun-'Ali al-Tahir road.

According to the same information, the occupation troops set up more surface-to-air missiles along the borders with Lebanon. The reports confirmed the presence of a number of long-range surface-to-surface missiles in the pine forest of the 'Ayn Qilya village, three km east of Hasbayya. The reports noted that Israeli bulldozers continue to consolidate the 'Ayn Qilya position and to connect it with the nearby positions by a network of military roads.

Security circles in the border zone linked these preparations and movements to the outcome of the Geneva talks between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister. The same circles pointed out that the occupied border areas are experiencing extreme tension in anticipation of the outcome of the Gulf situation.

Dispatches 'Huge' Reinforcements

NC1101063191 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] According to reports from occupied south Lebanon, Israel dispatched huge military reinforcements over the past 24 hours. Approximately 2,000 soldiers and 80 armored cars were sent to areas near Hasbayya, 12 km from the Syrian positions. This step is part of Israel's preparations for a possible war in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Lebanese security sources have said that Israel recently installed 12 surface-to-surface missiles in the occupied areas in south Lebanon as a counter measure for the Iraqi president's threats to attack Israel with missiles if war breaks out in the Gulf.

Further on Deployments

NC1101071991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Sources in the internal security forces in the south have stated that the [Israeli] occupation troops deployed Merkava tanks and troop carriers bearing purple signs—to facilitate their identification by aircraft—near Kawkabah [in the south] yesterday.

The sources added that intensive Zionist armored groups movements have been monitored along the Palestinian-Lebanese borders. More surface-to-air missiles have been deployed, particularly in the pine forests in 'Aqn Qilya, east of Hasbayya.

The agent militiamen are strengthening their positions in the occupied strip, particularly on 'Ayn Qilya hill.

Government Issues Policy Statement 7 Jan

NC1001122091 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 Jan 91 p 3

["Text" of the Lebanese Government's policy statement distributed to Chamber of Deputies members on 7 January prior to the session for a vote of confidence held on 9 January]

[Text] Respected Deputies: The parliamentary consensus which has been manifested by your respected chamber on more than one occasion in our nation's history, and which existed even during the grave and fateful circumstances witnessed by the country during its crisis, is a clear reflection of firm and courageous national stands which history will record with honor. The Chamber of Deputies' achievements during this critical phase in the homeland's history, particularly in the last stage of the crisis, are merely a sincere expression of the determination of all Lebanese to attain salvation and peace.

This determination was manifested first at the national dialogue conference in al-Ta'if and then in the presidential elections, the ratification of the national accord document, and the ratification of the constitutional amendments. It is also apparent in your constant support for the efforts to reunite the people, the land, and the institutions and to impose the state's authority over all Lebanese territory. Last but not least, it is revealed by the call to form a new government through which comprehensive national reconciliation will be achieved that will end the state of war in the country and will open a chapter of peace and reconstruction.

Achieving this objective required the formation of a government of national reconciliation representing the majority of political trends and forces. The members of this government must, in order to save the country, sit together at the dialogue table where the supreme national interest is the main objective and is placed above all other considerations. There can be no true accord without national reconciliation. There can be no national reconciliation without tolerance and without rising above old wounds. There can be no strong legitimate authority if illegal forces remain. There can be no single state if the statelets remain. There can be no security, peace, or reconstruction if the state is weak, torn by conflicts, and hampered by differences.

It is on this basis that our government was formed. It is on this basis that we hope that the government will be able to face the challenges which lie ahead and to achieve its objectives through the cooperation and solidarity of its members and with your backing and support.

One of the primary objectives is to implement the outstanding sections of the national accord document and to tackle issues that concern that lives, security, and stability of the citizens. Without going into the details of all these objectives, we must concentrate on some of them in view of their importance and priority.

One: Domestic policy

1. To complete the comprehensive security plan that aims at the gradual establishment of state authority over all Lebanese territory through the government's own forces. The Greater Beirut plan and the deployment of the Army in this area have already been achieved. The government will seek:

A. To strengthen the Greater Beirut plan, to implement the government's decision to send the Army to Iqlim al-Tuffah and other areas in the south, to take over all facilities and ports, and to set up a maritime operations room.

B. To dissolve all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and to secure the surrender of their weapons to the state in accordance with the national accord document.

C. To find a solution for the Lebanese youth who belong to these militias so as to facilitate their integration into civil and military life.

D. To strengthen the capacities of the Army, the internal security forces, and all other regular military and security forces by enhancing their number, equipment, and training; to open the door to volunteers; and to amend the national defense law in line with the need to have this national institution carry out its tasks and duties in the best possible manner.

E. To find a radical solution to the problem of displaced citizens, to acknowledge the right of all Lebanese to return to their homes, to draw up the appropriate legislation to guarantee this right, and to work at home and abroad to secure the means for reconstruction. 2. To liberate south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' from the Israeli occupation, to reimpose the state's sovereignty up to the internationally recognized borders by endeavoring to bring about the implementation of UN Resolution 425 and all other UN Security Council resolutions which call for the complete elimination of the Israeli occupation, and to abide by the armistice agreement signed on 23 March 1949.

To emphasize the Lebanese people's right to carry out legitimate national resistance in accordance with the UN Charter and to adopt all measures necessary to achieve liberation and the consolidation of the state's authority.

3. To fill all the vacant parliamentary positions in accordance with the provisions of the recent constitutional amendments. The government shall hold parliamentary elections as soon as circumstances permit. 4. To reconstruct the state and its institutions and to bolster their effectiveness so that all citizens, particularly the youths, can practice democracy in a sound manner, freely express their views and national affiliations, and participate in national decisionmaking. To build and improve the administration and to fill vacancies with people who possess the professional and moral qualifications that will enable them to carry out their tasks in the best possible way, particularly in the public services sector in connection with matters such as water, electricity, telephones, public health, etc. 5. To formulate and implement a development and construction policy that will take into consideration the needs of the country and the damaged areas and to work to secure the necessary assistance and funds for these areas and the occupied areas. 6. To improve the monetary, financial, and economic situation by reconstructing the country's infrastructure. To promote economic life and revive production in all sectors, control prices, curb corruption, and purify and protect the banking sector by balancing the state's budget. This could be realized by increasing taxes and sources of revenue and adopting a policy of austerity. To emphasize respect for a free market system that would promote individual initiative and protect private property. The government shall endeavor to realize the balanced development of all areas, ensure comprehensive social justice, and update trade and economic agreements with the fraternal and friendly countries. 7. To establish a social economic council to ensure the participation of representatives of the various sectors in formulating the state's social and economic policy through consultations and proposals. 8. To bolster the official information policy and to reorganize all media in accordance with the law and with the responsible exercise of freedoms in order to serve the steps toward reconcilation and ending the state of war.

9. To give attention to matters connected with national education and culture in view of education's crucial role in shaping our youths and our future. For this reason, the government will provide education to all because it is the right of every citizen. It will also enforce compulsory education starting at the elementary level. It will consecrate freedom of education and protect private education while tightening the state's control over private schools and school books. It will also remedy the problem of school fees.

The government will work diligently to raise the standards at public schools as well as the standard of vocational and technical training to meet the country's development and reconstruction needs as well as the needs of the labor market in Lebanon and in the fraternal and friendly countries. This will be done by reviewing school curricula in order to raise spiritual and cultural openness so that Lebanon remains the country of cultural dialogue and interaction and to ensure national affiliation and cohesion, especially through standardizing history and other textbooks in Lebanon. This is in addition to restructing the educational and cultural administrations to ensure their effectiveness and to enable them to keep pace with the development of education and culture around the world as well as through ensuring an honorable life for all workers in the educational sphere through meeting their just demands.

The government will give the Lebanese University, particularly its applied scienes college, its full support to meet the country's needs. The government will also closely review the higher echelons in the education, inspection, and guidance administrations as well as in the administrations of public schools. 10. To protect the environment, nature, and natural resources from the poisons of pollution and to work out a health strategy that will safeguard public health by adopting effective protective measures; providing medical and public health services; restructuring, refurbishing, and reactivating official health institutions; controlling the quality and prices of medicines; and improving social and living conditions as well as the means of transport so as to alleviate the citizens' daily burdens.

Two. Foreign policy:

In its foreign policy the government proceeds from the premise that Lebanon is a founding and active member of the Arab League and is committed to its charter. Lebanon is also a founding and active member of the United Nations and is committed to its Charter. It is also a member of the Nonaligned Movement. The government is committed to these principles in all fields.

On this occasion, the government expresses its gratitude and appreciation to their majesties and excellencies the Arab kings and presidents who have worked diligently to end the Lebanese crisis and promote the process of salvation, reconciliation, and peace. It gives special mention to the members of the higher Arab committee whose generous concern for and persistent and continuous interest in the Lebanese crisis have greatly influenced the success of the al-Ta'if agreement, the birth of the national accord document, and the decision to establish an Arab and international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon. We hope that this fund will be established as soon as possible and that the Arab committee will continue to assist the legitimate Lebanese Government in its efforts to achieve a better future.

The government expresses its thanks to sisterly Syria for its past and present efforts to support the march of salvation, accord, and peace and to assist the legitimate authority to consolidate the state's authority and unify the land, people, and establishments. The government also expresses its thanks to the friendly countries and international bodies which have shown concern for Lebanon and its ordeal. It believes that promoting Lebanon's ties with all friendly countries and international bodies will bolster Lebanon's role in the world and in the region.

While relying on its external friendship, the government recognizes the role of the Lebanese expatriates around the world in consolidating and promoting this friendship. These expatriates deserve the Lebanese state's care and all their affairs and problems are the concern of the government.

The government stresses Lebanon's faith in the Palestinian issue, in the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and in their intifadah against persecution, humiliation, and liquidation.

Regardinf the Gulf crisis, the government's stand is in line with the Arab League's resolutions in this regard.

Three: Proceeding from the national accord document, the government will work to reflect the distiguished relations between Lebanon and Syria through agreements in various spheres which will serve the interests of the two fraternal countries in accordance with their sovereignty and independence.

Esteemed deputies, this statement outlines the work program which the government will seek to carry out. It is chiefly a statement of sincere and devoted intentions to tackle this new era in the homeland's history. This is a critical stage that requires cooperation and solidarity to close the file of war for good, to resolve the problems and issues created by this war, and to launch intensive construction and development activities on all levels which require that all goodwill be used, that all efforts be concerted, and that ranks and hands be joined.

We all must recognize that a long and difficult road lies before us. Therefore, we rely on the vigilance of all Lebanese and we ask them, within the limit of their capabilities and circumstances, to support the state in realizing this task. We ask them to offer sacrifices and exercise self-denial so that all of us—the people, the chamber, and the government—can proceed as an integrated national team to achieve the aspirations of the rising generations for a future of security, peace, stability, and prosperity.

For our part, we will spare no efforts to make any sacrifice, no matter how great, to reach this target through sincere and constructive cooperation with His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and with the support and backing of your honorable Chamber on whose effective participation we depend for the creation of future Lebanon.

Accordingly, we hope to have your valuable confidence. We depend on God to guide us toward realizing the aspired goal.

Peace be upon you.

Foreign Minister Reviews Baker-'Aziz Meeting

JN1001152791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase left Damascus this morning after an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic which lasted three days. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Eastern Europe and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry, the Romanian ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff were at Damascus International Airport to see him off. Mr. Nastase talked to the SANA correspondent prior to departure, saying: I have been honored during my visit to Damascus to meet President Hafiz al-Asad. This meeting was a happy occasion for me to meet a great political leader with a high standard of wisdom and great understanding of the events in Europe and the world. I delivered a written message to him from President Ion Iliescu. He added: Talks during the meeting concentrated on bilateral relations as well as the situation in the Middle East and the world, especially now that we are approaching the Security Council's 15 January deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

He said: I was greatly satisfied with the joint efforts in this area, and I could say there is much agreementbetween us on the search for peaceful solutions to the dispute in the Middle East and the Gulf crisis. Mr. Nastase pointed out that he held productive talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' dealing with bilateral relations and international issues. He said: We agreed to continue to be in touch.

Concluding his statements, he thanked officials for the hospitality and generosity with which he and his delegation were received. He called on Mr. al-Shar' to visit Romania and said he hoped the invitation would be accepted in the future.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' responded to questions from the Romanian journalists accompanying Mr. Nastase and said: I would like to express satisfaction with the visit by Romanian Foreign Minister Nastase and his delegation. I declare that the results of this visitto our country, and the talks we held were beneficial to both sides. Mr. Nastase informed us of recent developments in Romania and East Europe. We also stressed that the traditional relations between the Syrian and Romanian people are continuing and should develop in the future. We pointed out that the scope for development and relations between the two countries is huge and broad. We believe that these relations will yield vital and beneficial returns in the interest of the two countries.

Mr. al-Shar' added: Naturally, we discussed regional and international issues, foremost of which is the Arab-Israeli conflict and the need to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East, leading to Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. We also concentrated specifically on the dangerous crisis our region is going through in the Gulf. It became clear to us that without the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, foremost of which is a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the situation is reaching a dangerous stage and difficult options that will expose Iraq in particular to the gravest dangers.

Mr. al-Shar' said: We hope that the Iraqi leaders will comply with the complete withdrawal from Kuwait in accordance with Arab and international resolutions before 15 January because therein lies the interest of the Iraqi people and the Arab nation, the security and stability of the region, and peace in the world.

Mr. al-Shar' pointed out that international affairs were also discussed. Our views were very similar. We must participate effectively in the new world order which is now taking shape so that stability, peace, and justice can be realized in our region. Ending the Gulf crisis in a way that will lead to a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of Kuwait's legitimate government will greatly help our region to establish peace and to make Israel withdraw from all occupied Arab territories.

Regarding Syria's stand on the Geneva talks, Mr. al-Shar' said: Syria has repeatedly declared, along with the rest of the world, that the key to the Gulf crisis solution is Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. It is quite unfortunate that we did not hear the word withdrawal during the talks between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. secretary.

Asked a question about what the Iraqi minister proposed to Baker in Geneva in connection with respect for international legitimacy, Mr. al-Shar' said: Anyone shying away from implementing UN resolutions pertaining to one crisis will not be credible when he demands that UN resolutions on another crisis be implemented.

Al-Asad Reviews Gulf Position, Role in Lebanon

91AA0157A Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 10 Dec 90 pp 20-21

[Report on interview With Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad by Ahmad Hamrush; "Interview With Hafiz al-Asad: Unity is not Accomplished by Invasion; I Am Opposed to Liquidation of Iraq; We Are Trying to Avoid War; Syria is for Lebanon's Independence and Unity"; date and place not given]

[Text] This is not a press interview but a reflection of a meeting.

It is the reflection of a meeting with a president who made the memories of unity revisit us so emphatically, so that it was as if we were still living in the glorious era of this Arab nation's history, when Cairo and Damascus were two cities in the same republic.

President Hafiz al-Asad gave us the opportunity for a meeting which brought back to us the fragrance of life, the mass emotions, and the future aspirations which

prevailed when unity was glowing brightly in the Arab sky and when it attracted the masses from the ocean to the Gulf.

He is a man who captivates you with his conversation which weaves the past with the present and the future, and which takes you on a tour of war, politics, art, and society.

We had no recorder to record the conversation and we did not bring out pen and paper. It was not a press interview, as I have already said. But the impact of the words on the heart was profound. While bidding the president farewell after a two-hour meeting, we had to ask him for permission to write our impressions of this meeting. The man did not wish to deny the writer and journalist the pleasure of writing.

Throughout a long history, political interviews have often been a prohibited sanctum to me and an undeclared secret in which I have lived, but about which I have written only what is permissible for everyone.

I will try to present here a reflection of the meeting with a man who has spent 20 years at the apex of power. Last November in Syria, they celebrated the anniversary of the correction movement which was staged 20 years ago, and after which Hafiz al-Asad became president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

They couple the November 1970 correction movement with the October 1973 war. In both, al-Asad played a role which has been recorded by history.

When Hafiz al-Asad received us at the door of the simple salon where he meets with his visitors, I noticed that this was the place where he met with leaders, ministers, and officials, as we had seen in press photographs or on the television screen.

This was the first time I had the opportunity to meet him. The conversation started with a period for which his heart abounds with love and the most precious memories, namely when he was an air force pilot in Egypt during the time of the United Arab Republic. He aroused impassioned emotions in our hearts when he said that unity would not have ended with secession had Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir responded to the emotions of the Syrians and broken with the secessionists. Such an act would have been legitimate at the time, because Syria and Egypt were a single state by the force of international law. We called them the northern province and the southern province.

I recall, [said al-Asad], the words written by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, in response to a message sent to him after the recession by then Syrian Prime Minister Ma'mun al-Kuzbari, to request recognition of the new situation.

Sekou Toure said: "I do not permit you to address a message to me. To me, you are a rebel and a traitor, and we can have relations only with the legitimate government of the United Arab Republic."

Hafiz al-Asad is a unity seeker by personal conviction and under the slogan of his party, the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party (Unity, Liberty, Socialism). But his idea of unity differs with the concept of annexation by force. He notes that he is always eager to advocate Lebanon's independence and national unity, and to emphasize that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is in accordance with the will and resolution of the Arab League and the legitimate [Lebanese] government. He also notes that during its presence in Lebanon, Syria has made large sacrifices which it has accepted out of full appreciation for the responsibility with which it has been saddled.

The relationship between Syria and Lebanon is a special relationship dictated by both history and geography. The families are the same, the relations are woven into the same tapestry, and the borders are open. If a free referendum were held under UN supervision, the two peoples would call for unity.

But Hafiz al-Asad underlines his open commitment to the Lebanese people's freedom, unity, and independence.

President al-Asad does not conceal his satisfaction with the course of the developments in Lebanon after more than 15 years of unrest and war. He considers the evacuation of the militias from the Greater Beirut, the entrenchment of the legitimate government, and the Lebanese army's performance of its responsibilities to be important forward steps toward liberation and peace.

But the positive phenomenon developing in Lebanon does not prevent the Gulf crisis from invading the meeting or even from causing comparisons to be made. Unity, in the Syrian president's opinion, can only be accomplished democratically. The method of annexation by invasion and force, as it was done in past centuries, is obsolete.

Hafiz al-Asad's position is evident in his profound understanding of the dimensions of the developments in the new international order, of the necessity and importance of responding to this order's charters and resolutions, and of weaving relations with this order into a single tapestry based on the common interest.

Hafiz al-Asad pointed out that the method of invasion is tantamount to swimming against the current of progress, democracy, and human rights, and that what Egypt and Syria have done with their adherence to the right to defend any Arab country reaffirms the two countries' cultural role. At the same time, he notes that this presence [of Egyptian and Syrian forces in the Gulf] does not at all mean a rush toward inter-Arab fighting or an attempt to commit aggression against the Iraqi people. Syria is eager for the continued presence of a free and independent Iraq which has its capabilities and its armed forces which are an asset for the Arab nation.

The observer can note that the Syrian information media are not pouring oil on the fire to further inflame and intensify the situation, and that there have been no aggressive statements by Syrian officials. Rather, there is

a distinguishing line, which points out the difference between defending the Arab land and rushing into a war that can only reflect negatively on the Arab nation's life and future.

It has been easy for us to conclude the secret behind this sound position. Chastity of word, self-control, and composure is what we encountered from the Syrian president throughout the meeting.

The interview took place at an exciting time, namely a few days after President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with U.S. President George Bush in Geneva and on the evening after the Security Council adopted the resolution to use all possible means against Iraq if it fails to respond to the previous resolutions. This means the possibility of action by international forces and the occurrence of a military explosion. This was also the time when Bush announced his initiative to invite Tariq 'Aziz to meet with him in Washington and to send James Baker, his secretary of state, to Baghdad.

The Geneva meeting was, it seems, a frank and comprehensive meeting in which the two sides discussed all the issues that have been, and perhaps continue to be, controversial: Israel's occupation of Arab territories and its presence in South Lebanon, the international forces' role in the Gulf, the endeavor to avoid the catastrophe of a military explosion, withdrawal of the international forces in case Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, the terrorism issue, and Syria's relations with a number of western countries.

President al-Asad's impression of the first meeting between a Syrian president and a U.S. president in 16 years was a positive one, and reflected some sort of understanding of Bush's approach to dealing with issues.

President al-Asad expressed the hope that the joint U.S.-Iraqi meeting will lead to an Iraqi response to the will of the international community, and to avoiding the catastrophe of the eruption of a war in the region, whose consequences will extend to other parts of the Arab homeland.

Despite its tragic consequences and its devastating potential, the Gulf crisis has not cast a darkness which prevents one from seeing future horizons. We also had the opportunity to talk about Egyptian-Syrian relations, whose final chapter was not written with the secession that took place on 28 September 1961. Rather, the Egyptian revolution and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party played a role in eliminating traces of the secession and in embodying the popular feelings through the tripartite federation, which was established between Egypt, Syria, and Libya in 1970, and through the glorious October war which caused an earthquake in Israel.

If disagreements in viewpoints and in the method of dealing with the consequences of the October war led to an official Egyptian-Syrian separation which lasted more than 10 years, then those disagreements were unable to create a gap in popular relations.

Hafiz al-Asad's words in this meeting embodied for us images of human feelings which strengthen popular relations, and which give hope of a better future. The conversation took us to the spheres of cultural and artistic life, which demonstrates that politics is not the only language of leaders.

The meeting lasted until the moments prior to our departure for the airport. We left Damascus with the image of this meeting deeply embedded in our hearts.

Commentary Calls Iraq Cause of Geneva Failure

JN1001165391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, after the announcement that the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva had failed, gloom reigned over the Middle East, and the prospects for a destructive military confrontation went up.

The whole world followed these talks with great interest. However, all hopes were shattered against the rock of Iraqi stubborness. At the same time, the fears of a war with destructive and ruinous effects on the countries of the region increased, even though Iraq would be the first victim.

When we review the individual statements of Baker and 'Aziz, we notice the following:

Iraq did not give signs of any flexibility about the withdrawal from Kuwait, which is what the international community insists on irrespective of the results. In this way, Iraq lost a valuable chance to settle the crisis. Everything is taking place as though the Iraqi rulers were determined to sacrifice Iraq's people, Army, potential, and resources. They have used the Palestine question as a pretext to justify their non-response to Arab and international resolutions. Meanwhile, Baker declared that Iraqi troops had not invaded Kuwait to support the Palestine question.

The truth is that this pretext is to be rejected and condemned from the start. Kuwait is an Arab country which has contributed and continues to contribute toward the steadfastness of the occupied Palestinian homeland. The invasion of Kuwait is a crime against Palestine because it has squandered Arab resources and potential and dealt a dangerous blow to the efforts for Arab solidarity. In fact, it provided all the justifications for this intense foreign presence in the Gulf region and gave Israel a free hand to tamper with the occupied territories without fear of retaliation or punishment.

Here, we need to ask the Baghdad rulers: Had the equation been reversed, had Kuwait been the powerful country in the region and Iraq the weaker brother, would Kuwait's invasion of Iraq for example have benefitted the Palestine question? We also ask: Does one Arab

country's invasion of another bolster this cause? Does fighting among Arabs strengthen or weaken them all against a usurping enemy who is planning to occupy land, resources, and holy shrines?

The Palestine question is a pan-Arab issue. Settling this issue whether through war or peace is the responsibility of all without exception. Who allowed the Baghdad rulers to impose their trusteeship on this question, invade their neighbors, and rob their resources in its name? Where were Baghdad's rulers during all the confrontations and wars that erupted in this region as a result of this cause? Where were they during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the valiant Syrian confrontation of the Zionists and their Western allies?

If there is an Arab country that sacrifices all its potential and resources for the Palestine question, it is Syria, which stands in the first confrontation line since the Zionist entity was declared and who put tens of thousands of martyrs onto the battlefield. Nevertheless, Syria does not claim the right to impose its trusteeship over the Palestine question or to make a decision singlehandedly that affects the interests of all the countries in the region.

The roots of the Gulf crisis lie in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and not the Palestine question. The solution to the crisis lies in the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the restoral of freedom and legitimacy to Kuwait. If the Baghdad rulers were really concerned about supporting the Gulf crisis, the Iraqi Army should be deployed along the confrontation front with Israel to support the Arab armies deployed along the first line of fire. They should also join the loyal Arab leaders in their efforts to realize Arab solidarity, rally the potential of the nation, and put an end to all disputes among the brothers, with no voice rising above the voice of the rifle aimed at Israel.

However, the Baghdad rulers and the Palestine question are at completely opposite ends. They sacrificed 1 million Iraqis and Iranians in a useless and meaningless war. They wasted hundreds of millions of dollars in escalating a dispute between Iraq and Iran. Had intentions been honest, one would assume that the potential of Iraq and Iran would have been rallied for the battle of the Arabs and the Muslims against the Zionist enemy, especially when, from the beginning of the revolution, Iran was only interested in having the honor of participating in the battle for the liberation of the holy shrines.

Today, the Iraqi people and Army are being dragged into the slaughterhouse for selfish reasons and personal greed, and as a result of the Baghdad ruler's megalomania.

All Arabs are calling on this ruler to respond to the voice of reason and conscience. The whole world is calling on this ruler to respond to the voice of reason and conscience. Efforts are still under way. No one in Baghdad is heeding the voice of reason and conscience. Until when will this go on?

Iraq Urged To Withdraw To Avoid 'Catastrophe'

JN1101073991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Why Insist Again on the Catastrophe?" AL-BATH's editorial today deals with the failure of the Geneva talks between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister and on the world's great astonishment at the Iraqi insistence on a catastrophe.

The paper says: The meeting was viewed as the last light at the end of the dark tunnel. The disappointing outcome of the Geneva talks have echoed strongly all over the world and fears of the fire erupting at any time have now increased.

AL-BA'TH adds: Until now, no one can see in the Iraqi regime's calculations any sort of rationality and there is only wagering on illusions and waiting for miracles. The greatest illusion may be underestimating the seriousness of the international unanimity against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. It is a great disaster if the rulers of Iraq know what awaits them and insist on a catastrophe, because this is an unprecedented criminal act. It would be an even greater disaster if they do not know because the situation is clear and does not tolerate any obstinacy or evasion.

AL-BA'TH talks about Syria's position and says: We here in Syria have been, and still are, against any Arab country occupying another Arab country and against an Arab country attacking another Arab country. We are also against treading on the Arab charters, agreements, ties, and ethics.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Therefore, we have warned, and we still warn the rulers of Baghdad not to throw themselves into the perilous situation. We have shouted loudly: Beware of what is going on around you, reconsider your calculations, and get out of Kuwait out of concern for Iraq itself—people, Army, and economy—and in order to avoid catastrophe and avoid any harm from being inflicted on our people and Army in Iraq.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: This is our call, which we still hope the brothers in Iraq will listen to and understand what is going on around them and have courage, not intransigence. Courage means taking the wise decision that will protect Iraq and its people. Sorrow will not be useful when it is too late and over the piles of ashes, bodies, and destruction. Beware. Beware of the grave and destructive mistake.

On the same subject, and under the headline "The Responsibility For Missing the Last Chance," AL-THAWRAH says in one of its commentaries: Although the last chance was missed, the five days remaining before the the deadline set by the UN Security Council resolution gives some time—which, although short, gives a last and rare opportunity for Iraq—to reconsider its position, retreat from the policy of intransigence, heed the voice of reason and logic, and

withdraw from Kuwait in order to save itself and help the national and pan-Arab interest before the time for the military option arrives, because, by then, neither sorrow nor retreat would be useful.

Paper Calls for 'Deterrent' Steps Against Israel

JN0901122091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Stepping Up Repression," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Israel's deportation of four Palestinians undoubtedly constitutes a serious provocation and defiance of UN Security Council Resolution 681, which was adopted approximately four weeks ago, and which warned against going too far in the policy of deportation and expulsion and called for putting an immediate end to the repeated Zionist violation of human rights and international law.

The paper adds: This serious Israeli provocation necessitates a stronger international stand and requires the world's peace-loving peoples to take immediate and urgent action to prevent Israel from going too far in its brutal repressive policy.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Undoubtedly, all the world states are aware of this fact and know full well that there is a people whose land has been usurped and whose rights have been violated, and who are being exposed to all forms of tyranny and coercion. If from time to time these states express their desire to help the Palestinian people, then this desire is not enough. Practical deterrent measures should be adopted, the least of which boycotts Israel, expels it from the United Nations, and besieges it politically and economically. Only then will this desire be serious and effective. Any other talk will be mere wishes.

Israel's Deportation of Palestinians' Deplored

JN1101074391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries, AL-THAWRAH writes on Israel's oppressive policy and measures against our kinfolk in the occupied territories, particularly the decisions to deport four more Palestinian citizens from their homeland within the enemy's attempts to suppress the valiant intifadah, which is escalating in its fourth year, challenging all Israeli measures and oppressive organs.

AL-THAWRAH notes the UN secretary general's statement the day before yesterday in which he expressed concern over the Israeli deportation policy which runs contrary to international charters. AL-THAWRAH also notes the denunciation of the International Committee for the Red Cross of those deportation measures and its affirmation that they constitute a serious violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' Returns From Saudi Arabia

JN0801085391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has returned to Damascus [from Saudi Arabia] after participating in meetings of the fourth session of the tripartite meetings of the Syrian, Egyptian, and Saudi foreign ministers.

Talas Discusses Visit to Gulf, Syrian Forces

JN0801171491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a session at 1100 today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. At the beginning of the session, the Council of Ministers reviewed the work of the services and economic committees. During the session, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, also explained the results of his visits to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as his inspection of Syrian forces in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Khaliqyar Opens Economic Council Session

LD1101031891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The Prime Minister's Press Office reports to the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] that a general session of the Economic Consultative Council was held this morning at the headquarters of that council and chaired by Esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. It took a series of decisions in light of the views and proposals expressed by the national entrepreneurs to improve the economic spheres of the country. [passage omitted]

The work of the general session of the Economic Consultative Council was attended by the ministers of trade, finance, agriculture, light industry, and foodstuff; a number of the officials of some ministries; officials from banks and relevant departments; and head of the Economic Section Department of the Presidency. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Prime Minister Khaliqyar, having assessed the views and proposals of the national entrepreneurs, considered the role of the private sector in the country as important and added that your clear and honest words make the government further hopeful toward the development of the national economy and revival of the country. Esteemed Khaliqyar, having mentioned the outstanding and timely services by the national entrepreneurs during the years of war, added that the private investors, who during the 12 years of war accepted enormous financial losses and kept active the level of the country's economy, are worthy of encouragement and praise. The government will attend to their logical demands. The esteemed prime minister shed light on projects since the previous general session of the Economic Consultative Council, including the draft of a new charter, the development of trade, the law on money and banking, the transfer of a number of state enterprises to the private sector, the resolution of the difficult loan of the banks [as heard], the provision of raw materials for factories, the issue of exempt cards [from military service] for expert employers of the industrial firms of the private sector, the provision of fuel, the prevention of the inflation of the exchange rate currency, and other issues. He stressed once again the need for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to become active.

Esteemed Khaliqyar drew the attention of the national investors to seeking new trade sources, attracting foreign investment, utilizing undeveloped land, mining, developing industry and transport and transit services, constructing high-rise buildings and trade markets, and providing and supplying primary goods to the people, including fuel. In light of the discussion at the present general session of the Economic Consultative Council, he instructed the relevant ministers to resolve the problems and, if necessary, present specific proposals to the government. The esteemed prime minister requested a number of national entrepreneurs to play their patriotic duties by giving financial assistance to the national program for clearing the lands of the Republic of Afghanistan from mines and live ammunition.

The session ended at 1400 in a climate of mutual understanding and discussion of individual issues by the national entrepreneurs with the esteemed prime minister.

Bangladesh

Election Nomination Filing Deadline 13 Jan

BK1001162891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The last date for filing of nomination papers for the ensuing elections to Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] is Sunday, the 13th of this month. Nomination papers may be filed with either the returning officer or with the assistant returning officer or with both. Any elector of the constituency in which the candidate would contest may propose or second the nomination of the candidate. Every candidate will be required to declare in his nomination paper that he has consented to the nomination and he is not subject to any disqualification for being elected as a member of the Jatiya Sangsad. Besides, he will also be required to swear that he is not contesting the election from more than five constituencies.

An Election Commission source says each candidate will have to deposit 5,000 taka as security for submission with his nomination paper. This amount may be deposited in cash with either the returning officer or the assistant returning officer concerned. The amount may also be deposited in any bank or any government treasury or subtreasury. Only one security deposit will be required if a candidate submits more than one nomination paper in the same constituency. [sentence as heard] On the other hand, security deposits for each constituency will be required for the person who submits his nomination in more than one constituency.

India

Government Disappointed at Failure of Geneva Talks

BK1001125491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] India has expressed disappointment over the failure of the talks between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister in Geneva on resolving the Gulf crisis. Official sources in New Delhi pointed out that India was in the forefront of nations advocating a peaceful solution to the problem to avert a war. It is a matter of concern and disappointment as the talks did not yield any fruitful results, they said.

Meanwhile, New Delhi is finalizing the contingency plan to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals in various Gulf countries in the event of a war.

Shekhar Says Tamil Nadu Situation 'Disturbing'

BK1001131091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister told the Lok Sabha today that the government has no intention to dismiss the Tamil Nadu government, but the situation in the state is very disturbing. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the information collected from the two ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] leaders who were arrested from Vellore hospital is causing concern. The government has definite information that there is not only a nexus between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and ULFA but close cooperation between them and six ULFA centers operating in the state. AK-47 rifles are available at the cheapest rate in Tamil Nadu and these are being used not only by ULFA insurgents, but also by the Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] in Andhra Pradesh and by the extremists in Punjab. He regretted that certain information provided by the center to the state chief minister not only reached the LTTE elements in Tamil Nadu but also at Jaffna.

The house witnessed heated exchanges when several Congress-I and AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members referred to the developments in Tamil Nadu and wanted immediate dismissal of the state government.

The prime minister also assured the house that the government will not hesitate in exercising its full authority to curb terrorist activities in Punjab. He announced that government has taken certain steps in the wake of the recent killings in the state. The impact of the action will be known within 24 hours to dispell any such impression that the government will play soft with the antinational elements. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was responding to a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member during the zero hour who said that militants have been encouraged in violent activities following the prime minister's talks with the Akali Dal leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann.

Shekhar Says Pakistan Not 'Permanent Enemy'

BK1101032691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister says the government will respond in more than equal measure to any offer of friendship by Pakistan and will not be influenced by any suggestion that it is a permanent enemy. He said this in the Lok Sabha yesterday while intervening in the discussion in a late sitting of the house on a bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Act. Mr. Chandra Shekhar further affirmed that if Pakistan takes one positive step, India will go five steps forward. Describing Pakistan as a brotherly neighbor, he wondered why both the left and right political forces in the country should suffer from imaginary fears about Pakistan. The prime minister said, if there is any attack from any side, India will give a befitting reply, but we should not allow fears to raise hatred. He said when the world is coming closer, as a big country, India has to give the lead in uniting the South Asian region.

Reacting to the members' insinuations about his friendly interaction at Male with the new Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he has no reasons to doubt Mr. Sharif's sincerity. Reverting to the discussion of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Chandra Shekhar reaffirmed that the government will talk to anyone who is an Indian citizen in order to solve the problem. He urged members not to question Article 370 of our Constitution as it was a promise to the Kashmiris. The prime minister announced that developmental work in Jammu and Kashmir will be taken up in a big way despite financial handicaps and the schemes pending will be implemented. Hoping that the Kashmir problem will be solved soon, Mr. Chandra Shekhar assured the house that refugees from the valley will be supported well until they are able to return. Following the prime minister's assurance, Mr. (Gintari Lal Pargo), BJP, who earlier moved a resolution seeking to disapprove the Jammu and Kashmir criminal law ordinance, withdrew the resolution.

Court Vacates Stay Order on Disqualification

BK1101152891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The Delhi High Court has vacated its stay order on the disqualification proceedings against 37 Janata Dal-S MP's [members of parliament] now pending with the Lok Sabha speaker. The court has also stayed the order of the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, expelling 24 MP's from the Janata Dal. A full bench headed by the chief justice, Mr. M.C. Jain, today held that the Lok Sabha speaker has the jurisdiction to decide the question of disqualification of members. Admitting a petition moved by Mr. D.P. Verma and four other Janata Dal-S MP's, the high court observed that no show-cause notice was served on any of the 25 Janata Dal members of parliament before their expulsion. In view of this, the order of expulsion shall remain stayed till the disposal of the petition, the court said.

Sikh Group Urges All-Party Conference on Punjab

BK1001165891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Punjab Sangharsh Morcha [Struggle Front] has called for a round table conference involving all national political parties to solve the Punjab problem. At a meeting headed by the Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, in Chandigarh today, the morcha condemned the killings of innocent people and extortions of money. In a resolution, the morcha endorsed Mr. Mann's meeting with the prime minister to find a negotiated settlement to the Punjab problem.

Meanwhile, the Akali Dal-Badal president, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, has been authorized by the working committee

and district jathedars [Sikh leaders] of his party to take all steps for attaining unity among various Akali factions.

Hindu-Muslim Talks Held on Ayodhya Shrine Issue

BK1101104591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The general secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council—VHP], Acharya Giriraj Kishore, has said some positive gains have been made at yesterday's third round of talks with All India Babri Masjid [mosque] Action Committee, AIBMAC. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said the VHP will attend the next round in February, but will announce its future course of action on the 17th of this month.

Meanwhile, the Babri Masjid Action Committee has also announced its decision to meet on the 20th to chalk out its future course of action. Talking to newsmen, its leaders, Mr. Safaryar Jilani and Mr. Javed Habib, stressed the need to create an atmosphere of peace and amity so that the issue can be resolved amicably. As already reported, the meeting decided that four expert groups will go into the detailed documents submitted by the VHP and AIBMAC in support of their claims on the Ayodhya issue. Their findings will be considered at the next round of talks to be held in New Delhi on the 5th of next month.

Iran

Meetings With Iraq's Ibrahim, Delegation Continue

President Comments on Foreign Troops

LD1001143991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council of Iraq, and his accompanying delegation.

At this meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of friendly understanding, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the new situation and conditions that had emerged in the region since the occupation of Kuwait. He said: In order that Iran and Iraq may be able to cooperate in different fields, extensive efforts have to be made with the aim of eliminating the effects of the hardships endured by our people during the past 10 years. The remaining problems of the prisoners of war and the missing have to be speedily resolved, and the rest of the clauses of the resolution implemented. In this way, the undesirable consequences of past events may gradually be removed, giving way to the emergence of normal relations between the two countries.

Our president noted the necessity of overcoming this difficult stage, so as to permit healthy cooperation between the two countries. Elsewhere in his remarks he said: The extensive presence of arrogant military forces in the region is dangerous and a cause for concern. These forces lack goodwill, and have expansionist ambitions.

At this meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also noted the concern felt by the people of Iran and the region regarding the Persian Gulf crisis. He explained: We are in the process of studying the situation, so that we may take certain actions toward lessening the problems of the region. The chief factors creating these anxieties should be eliminated, and America should be denied any pretext.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the first vice president, Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim expressed his pleasure at meeting the president of our country. He said this trip has provided an opportunity whereby, through bilateral talks, better horizons may be opened up in the area of mutual relations. He added: The Iraqi Government has sent this delegation to Iran in an effort to normalize relations between the two countries and also to try and elevate relations to the levels that existed before the war. I hope that through your efforts and the courage of both sides, the two nations of Iran and Iraq may be able to restore their historical and cultural relations once again.

The vice chairman of Iraq's Revolution Command Council also called for more frequent meetings between Iranian and Iraqi delegations at various levels. Also present at this meeting were the deputy in charge of the legal and administrative affairs of the Majles; the first vice president, the minister of roads and transport, and the deputy foreign minister of our country, along with their Iraqi counterparts, also attended.

Ibrahim, Habibi Hold 2d Meeting

NC1101090591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The second and last round of talks between the Iranian and Iraqi delegations chaired by Hasan Habibi, first vice president, and 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council of Iraq, was held last evening at the president's office.

In this round of talks, the issues discussed in the first round were reviewed in order to assess the results, as well as the outcome of the experts' discussions during the Iraqi delegation's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During these talks, the two sides discussed the continued implementation of Resolution 598, the 1975 Accord, the exchange of the remaining POW's, the visits by pilgrims of both countries, the dredging of Arvand River, and the erecting of the border barriers. The regional situation, the Persian Gulf crisis, and its effects on the region and on the Islamic world were the other topics brought up in the talks and on which views were exchanged.

Mr. Habibi said: Iraq's entry into Kuwait has not and does not benefit Iraq and the world of Islam, and it is one of the reasons for the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. He added: It is possible that the present critical situation could be the reason that international attention has been diverted from the Palestinian issue. Therefore, it appears

that our neighbors should make decisions that do not remove the Palestinian issue from people's minds.

The first vice president stressed: We do not consider the advent of war to be in the interests of Iraq or the Islamic world, but we believe—as we have repeatedly declared—that foreign forces, spearheaded by the United States, should depart from the region. We hope that the United States will leave the region in weakness and defeat, Zionism will be wiped out, and the people of Palestine will regain all of their territory.

Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim referred to the talks and said: We have had useful talks, and we have been very close in some cases on our stances on the Persian Gulf crisis. Of course, in other cases, we have also had a difference of opinion, and we believe that these talks should continue. In such talks, in addition to the regular assessment of the issues of the region and the world, the remaining issues pertaining to bilateral relations can also be resolved.

The Iraqi delegation which was led by the vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council left Tehran last evening for Baghdad when the talks ended.

2d Meeting Reported Cancelled

LD1001224191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2146 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, January 10 (TANJUG)—Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim Thursday ended his three-day visit to Tehran, which was devoted to the Gulf crisis and normalization of Iraq-Iranian relations.

Upon his departure from Iran, Ibrahim did not make the usual statement.

It has been learned that Ibrahim did not have the announced second meeting with his host, Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

During the talks in Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Ibrahim that his country was against any territorial ambitions and that the occupation of Kuwait had brought the Gulf region into a very dangerous situation.

Delegation Departs 10 Jan

LD1001151691 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—Vice-Chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim and his entourage left Tehran for Baghdad Thursday, winding up a 3-day visit and talks on the Persian Gulf crisis and mutual relations.

Ibrahim's companions included Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahaf, Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, deputy oil minister and several members of parliament.

Before their departure, Ibrahim who is Iraq's number two in command and his entourage met and conferred with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

First Vice President Hasan Habibi saw off the Iraqi delegation at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport.

Iraq Cautioned Not To Be Deceived by U.S.

LD1001185791 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—A senior Iranian official has called on Iraq to take "prudent" steps and reject any peace overtures void of an accurate and acceptable time-table for the withdrawal of alien forces from the Persian Gulf.

In a political commentary published in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT Thursday, Foreign Ministry advisor Mohammad Javad Larijani said "in this conflict, the dividend each side will get depends on the degree of its determination."

He warned that the U.S.-led foreign military force has entered the region under pretext of confronting an aggression with several schemes up its mind, and Iraq was unable to protect itself against such dangers.

"I attach no value to an international conference on the Middle East. Iraq should be cautious so as not to be deceived by such a stage-managing...what is important is the pull-out of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

"Above all," Larijani noted, "one should never go to the conference as long as the foreign forces, are dangling like a dagger, ready to pierce the heart of the Islamic ummah."

He thought that it would be a blunder to link Iraq's pull-out from Kuwait to an international conference on the Middle East, a move that would only benefit the U.S. and the illegal Zionist entity.

The Iranian official advised Iraq to "link its withdrawal to a logical, time-tabled pull-out of foreign forces from the region."

He concluded that "today is not the time to fear or make haste but rather a proper time to serve the Iraqi nation", although, he said aggression and bullying were "deplorable acts" and "there was no justification for Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait".

Daily Calls on Iraqi Leaders To Avert War

NC1101065391 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 1 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Idea of War"]

[Text] Innocent and having no recourse but to follow the whims of their despot for more land, Iraqi youths entered into a long and destructive war with Iran with no tangible gain. A lot of these young men ended up in POW

encampments and spent many would-be constructive years of their lives in prison counting days and waiting for the day when they could regain their freedom.

When the news of peace talks between the two governments of Iraq and Iran began circulating, the Iraqi POW's immediate reaction must have been something like "free at last". They wrongly thought that they could go back to their families and begin a new life.

But no. That was not to be the case. The Iraqi POWs had to leave the Iranian camps only to return to other war fronts in Kuwait, to wait for another war, one even more futile than the previous one. And if they were lucky in not having lost their lives during the almost decade long war with Iran, it does not mean it is going to be the same this time too. There is talks that should a war (between the allied western forces and Iraq) break out, it will be brief but destructive with a very high human toll. One doesn't know what to say except to beseech God to help these youths.

Come to think of it, of all the people directly or indirectly involved in the Persian Gulf's new crisis and eventual war, it is the Iraqis who seem to be carrying the brunt of the conflict. The same Iraqis endured a long war with Iran with all the stamina they could muster, but to no avail. They wrongly thought it was at last over.

When the guns fell silent through Baghdad and Tehran's acceptance of a cease-fire to be followed by peace talks, the war, its senseless killing and devastation, immediately became history. The preoccupation turned to postwar reconstruction.

Not for the Iraqis, of course. Instead the Iraqis preparing for another war by staging such things as evacuation drills to acquire needed readiness in the event of aerial attacks. All things considered we can't help feeling that they have had enough of this sort of thing and need peace and tranquility. The Iraqi people are tired of war and if war breaks out, their evacuation drills will be of little use. One can only have sympathy for them.

As is common among other regimes of this kind, Baghdad talks about popular support for everything it does including the invasion of Kuwait, taking on the world by defying its rightful demand to leave Kuwait and so on. All such regimes claim they have the unquestioned and unwavering support of the people. The rallies throughout Baghdad and other places are stage managed by the regime. A few days before his downfall Ceausescu must have said the same thing and talked about popular support, but it is common knowledge what happened to him.

Iraq claims to be an advocate of Palestinian rights. It says it launched the invasion of Kuwait only to call international public attention to the plight of the Palestinian people. As far as the Palestinian cause and indifference to it are concerned, there is no disputing that. But Iraq's idea of invading a third country, utterly plundering it and killing its people in the name of freeing Palestine, is a little far-fetched. You don't destroy one thing to help build another. You don't kill an innocent one to ensure life for another. Thus the idea of linking the resolution of the Palestinian crisis in the occupied territories by Iraq, to its withdrawal from Kuwait, looks at best insincere and more of an excuse to legitimize its misdeed.

To call attention to their scheduled confrontations, boxers are famous for their garrulousness. They show fists and teeth to each other, chortling about what they'll do when they face each other in the ring. Baghdad and Washington seem to have engaged in the same kind of game. Every day we read Iraqi officials saying what will happen to the Americans if and when the war breaks out. The same is true with the Americans, only theirs come in a more sophisticated form.

However this is one confrontation the whole world hopes will not happen. Let's hope it will stay at the present level of jawboning.

One last thing, we often hear officials of the ex-government of Kuwait daring the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf to begin the war, arguing that the Iraqi regime does not understand the language of logic. They seem to be oblivious to the fact that should the war break out there will no longer be any Kuwait left. Kuwait is the war front the Americans will focus their offensive on. On the other hand, the Iraqis have threatened to uproot it to prove to the world that the use of force to reverse Baghdad's invasion was a mistake. The Kuwaiti proponents of war would be wise if they take a look at what was Khorramshahr, wherein the Iraqi forces engaged in an orgy of destruction, leaving absolutely nothing. Let's hope sense will prevail in the person of the Iraqi leader and this war will be averted.

Tehran Dailies View Baker-'Aziz Meeting

LD0901125891 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Today's meeting between foreign ministers of Iraq and the U.S. in Geneva is in an effort to extend the January 15 U.N. Security Council deadline, said the morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Wednesday.

The Persian daily in a commentary wrote that the recent political efforts of the U.S. and Iraq indicate that both sides are concerned with the outbreak of a war in the Persian Gulf region.

To the same extent that Iraq feels threatened, the U.S. is afraid of becoming involved in an unpredictable military confrontation. Both sides' military gestures are moves to cover up their worries.

The meeting may lead to a mutual understanding between Baghdad and Washington because neither the U.S. nor Iraq are in circumstances to endure heavy material and human losses. Meanwhile, the U.S. faces

pressure of the American public opinion and its prestige as a superpower depends on outcome of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Therefore, a decisive victory in the crisis is of vital importance for the U.S. while Iraq too would like to see that the outcome of the crisis will provide a suitable response to several months of anxiety.

These aspects have been taken into consideration in Baker's plan which suggests recognition of Iraq-Kuwait border dispute and ignoring the economic losses inflicted on Kuwait.

The situation is so complex that 'Aziz-Baker meeting could not be successful if it would only secure interests of Baghdad and Washington. The Geneva meeting may merely provide an appropriate political atmosphere for the U.S. to act with more freedom after the January 15 deadline and resort to political excuses if it feels serious dangers, concluded JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Another daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' commenting on the same subject said, "Just as it should be expected, the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and the consequences therefrom have confused not just the Kuwaitis but the Saudis as well, since Saudi Arabia has played a particularly important role in the whole affair."

Referring to the Saudi King Fahd's recent statement that he expected "the half a million or so U.S. troops stationed in his country and Persian Gulf eventually to withdraw," the editorial stressed, "the Americans are here to stay."

It, however, noted "The king might have retracted his statement on the departure of the American forces from Saudi Arabia so as not to have been on the record for something he knows is not going to happen."

It believed that the Saudis generally like "to compromise with Baghdad on the issues concerned without going to war for them."

Riyadh likes "to negotiate with Iraq, their Arab brother and ally, peacefully but it is Washington and its European allies who have chosen the hard way," it concluded.

Kuwaiti Shiite Leader Criticizes Al-Sabah

NC1001223991 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Shiraz—KEYHAN correspondent: The migrant Kuwaiti Shiites have been deprived of any type of assistance from the al-Sabah government.

This was stated by Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Mohammad Baqir Mahri, leader of the Kuwaiti Shiites, in a telephone contact with our correspondent. The leader of the Kuwaiti Shiites added: The Egyptians who were residing in Kuwait and are now abroad are receiving 1,300 Egyptian pounds a month.

He referred to the fact that a monthly sum is paid by the Kuwaiti Government to Kuwaiti migrants in various countries and said: Unfortunately, the Iranians who lived in Kuwait for 10 to 50 years but did not have Kuwaiti passports either because they were Shiites or because they did not want their passports to be changed are not receiving any assistance. This is when most of them were employees in Kuwait and were paying insurance, unemployment, and retirement premiums. Therefore, in view of this, the al-Sabah government should pay its employees their benefits.

He added: The sensitive jobs in Kuwait were in the hands of the Iranians who were residents of Kuwait for years, but these people were never issued Kuwaiti visas because they were Shiites.

Commenting on wasting the easily-gained wealth of the sheykhs, he said: Tens of millions of tumans [Iranian currency] have been misplaced, or in other words, were stolen from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran. Why was this money not given to the Iranian residents of Kuwait who are now in Iran and whose millions of tumans of investments were lost in Kuwait?

He added: The Kuwaiti Government is spending billions of dollars for the American soldiers in the Persian Gulf to make merry. Wouldn't it have been better to place this wasted money at the disposal of the Muslim residents of Kuwait who are now wandering around with no income in other countries?

He added: The Kuwaiti Government is placing great amounts of money at the disposal of its fugitive soldiers who are reveling in Persian Gulf littoral states while 300,000 Kuwaiti Muslims are barely making ends meet.

MiG-29s To Be Used in 'Fajr' Maneuvers

LD1001185391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Speaking at the ceremonies marking the end of the second pilots graduate course of F-5 aircraft, Brigadier General Sattari, commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Thanks to the attention of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the forces, to the issue of training, the Air Force has succeeded through careful planning in achieving valuable successes. I draw your attention to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent on that occasion:

[Unidentified correspondent] Ceremonies marking the end of the second pilots graduate course of F-5 fighters were held this morning at the Dezful Airbase in the presence of Brig. Gen. Sattari, commander of the Air Force.

Graduates of F-5 fighters have succeeded in obtaining their pilot's license by receiving the necessary training during the course from experienced Air Force cadres and without the help of foreign experts.

In remarks at the ceremonies, the commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the success in training manpower for the fighter-hunters, utilizing advanced experiences and equipment, is an important step toward enabling the Air Force to achieve self-sufficiency. [passage omitted]

He also referred to the grand Fajr exercises to be held in the western and southern areas of the country, and said that during these extended maneuvers, the Air Force will utilize its most advanced fighter-hunters, including the MiG-29. He added that all the radar stations, missile sites, and artillery units will be placed on operational phase. The Air Force, through participation in those grand exercises along with other armed forces, will display its power and combat strength in the defense of the Islamic airspace.

KAYHAN on Significance of Military Exercise

NC1101061791 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Our National Interests"]

[Text] It was announced on Tuesday that the Iranian Armed Forces would carry out massive maneuvers along the border with Iraq between Jan. 10 and 20. Military officials said the war games aimed at raising the combat capability and achieving greater preparedness regarding any kind of potential threat.

Meanwhile, the Supreme National Security Council met in the capital last week to take precautionary measures to defend the country's national interests and confront threats the country may face in case war breaks out in the region or if foreign forces intend to remain here permanently.

There is no doubt that if war erupts in the region, its subsequent crisis will threaten the Islamic Republic. Experts on defense affairs predict that a possible war in the region would be a widespread and probably a long one, and if the U.S. fails to implement its strategy of dealing the first blow the war will spread to other parts of the Persian Gulf.

Under such circumstances, how much pressure would be put on Iran as a country sharing the longest border with Iraq? What would be the problems facing us if a military confrontation breaks out? Certainly the Islamic Republic can be a deterrent force in the face of any threat by using its military capabilities.

In order to safeguard the country's national interests, we need to exploit our mighty military forces and to this end the display of the maneuvering power of the three branches of the armed forces especially in the southern parts of the country can serve as an effective way.

We cannot allow even an inch of our soil and islands to be attacked by foreign forces. Therefore it just seems essential to foresee the defense (military) formations in the strategic points of the country on its Persian Gulf islands particularly the Khark Island. Even installing missile systems at those regions can be effective in safeguarding the country's security. The formation of a deterrent force can limit the possibility of war spreading to Iran.

Even if the U.S. succeeds in defeating the Iraqi regime or partition that country, yet some dangers will threaten Iran. In both cases, the U.S. may seek an excuse to deal a blow on Iran in order to implement its desired security system while moving towards a power balance.

The public opinion in Iran should be prepared to face possible dangers. It should in no way be presumed that a possible war in the Persian Gulf will not affect us. In the event of war, the worst situation would be to get caught off guard by others's decisions. Under such conditions, the most important words will come from artillery pieces and missiles. When our enemies want to impose their words on us with weapons, we have to rely on our own military capability in order to preserve our national interests.

What will be the duty of the Muslim world in case Israel despatches troops to Jordan and Lebanon following a possible defeat of Iraq? What role should the Islamic Republic have? What would be the reaction of other countries of the region? It seems that our military forces can assume a special role in the face of the dangers that would threaten the region in the future.

Undoubtedly, the Persian Gulf crisis is currently the most important issue of the country and the public opinion should be prepared to encounter various aspects of this crisis. It should not be overshadowed by any other issue. If our people and officials are well aware of the dangers of this crisis they should refrain from doing things to prove the otherwise.

Editorial on Need for Military Preparedness

NC1101060491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran's Military Preparedness Crucial at This Time"]

[Text] Last week the Islamic Republic of Iran performed the largest-ever naval maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman and the strategic Strait of Hormuz waters.

In these maneuvers, conducted jointly by the Navy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy and Air Force, the most up-to-date equipment and advanced weapons were used. The maneuvers clearly succeeded in evincing the military power of state forces in confronting and thwarting any possible aggression by any country against Iran.

In the coming weeks, ground maneuvers will also be held in the south of the country with the active participation of the IRGC Ground Forces and the Army Ground Forces.

These maneuvers sharpen the military readiness of Iran's forces and prepare them for confronting any possible aggression. It doesn't mean however that the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to become involved in any war that may occur in the Persian Gulf. But naturally when the Iranian nation's security is jeopardized Iran will strictly confront any assault.

After the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran started producing and purchasing strategic and basic weapons for modernizing and renovating its armed forces. These included the supersonic MiG-29 interceptor and Su-24 Sukhoi warplanes. With these new warplanes added to its past squadrons of planes, Iran now has acquired advanced weapons from both power blocs.

One of the problems and shortcomings of Iran during the imposed war was lack of surface-to-air missiles for use against intruding enemy warplanes. But by acquiring SAM2-S200 and SAM-6 missiles, which are highly powered to destroy enemy targets at high altitudes, this shortfall has been removed.

The Persian Gulf crisis, with the presence of foreign forces and Iraq's insistence of continuing its illegal occupation of Kuwait, brings the region closer to a critical, fateful point. The Islamic Republic, as it has already declared, does not intend to participate in any war in the region. But this does not mean that Iran should lose it's military preparedness and not be able to defend ourselves if attacked by any force.

Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Support for Khamene'i

LD1001220291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Simultaneously with 19 Dey [9 Jan] the anniversary of the bloody uprising of the people of Qom and the machinegunning of the seminarians of Qom seminary by the Pahlavi executioners, yesterday afternoon the scholars and lecturers of Qom Seminary along with a large number of various strata from the martyr-nurturing inhabitants of the city of blood and uprising, gathered at the pure shrine of the Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—and renewed allegiance to the lofty aspirations of the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this ceremony, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, while praising the heroic and brave deeds of the Qom seminarians and the inhabitants of that city, said: The Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, during the length of the years of his resistance against the Shah, made extensive efforts and cleansed Islam from the heretical impurities that they had adorned it with. He was successful in this task which was far more difficult than the struggle against the Shah. Thus he proved that the people and clergymen will together achieve independence and freedom by embracing true Islam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmed Khomeyni pointed to the hostilities of the enemies of the Islamic revolution, especially the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], royalists, liberals, leftist minigroups, and reactionaries, who, led by the United States, were trying to divert the Islamic revolution from its true path during the time of the imam. He said: The imam's alertness and the self-sacrifices of you, the people, prevented Islam from deviating from its course; and we should maintain our unity and solidarity more resolutely and determinedly than before and know that any hand that wishes to disrupt this unity is sinful.

Today we should all move behind the leader [Khamene'i] and this is a religious and divine duty. [passage omitted]. We should support the Government, the Majles, and the Judiciary and take steps along that path which is acceptable to God. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmed Khomeyni noted: The leader of the revolution and the heads of the three branches are defenders of freedom and have suffered imprisonment, exile, and torture for the sake of achieving freedom. Today everyone is free to criticize and express their opinions. But no one should be allowed to insult and defame others.

He remarked that it is simplistic to think that the United States can be restrained through a soft approach and said: The United States will not leave us alone until it weakens us from the inside and turns pure Mohammadan Islam into U.S. Islam to show that our revolutionary image is one that is dependent on the United States and Western values. Thus the economic pressures brought by the United States against the Islamic revolution are explicitly aimed at destroying the revolution's image. And we consider the United States as the great satan and the number one enemy and destroyer of Islam and divine values in the world. Yet we will never kowtow to her. [passage omitted]

Arrest of Tunisian Fundamentalists Criticized

LD0801235491 Tehran IRNA in English 1944 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—Iranian parliamentarians have voiced concern over the fate of Muslim activists arrested in Tunisia. A letter signed by 140 Majles deputies and read at the open session of the parliament Tuesday condemned the Tunisian regime for its "anti-Islamic acts" against Muslims of that country.

The MPs also made it clear that promotion of relations between Tehran and Tunis was tied to a change in Tunisia's "discriminatory policy toward its Muslim population."

Tunisia Urged To Change Policy Toward Muslims

NC1001103791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Opponents of the regime in Tunisia have been subjected to a mounting wave of arrests and detention in the last few days. Some news circles consider this measure to be without precedent in the three years of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's rule. The arrests, which usually take place on various pretexts, have generated a wave of internal and external protest.

For the past few years, the increasing activities of the Islamists has been considered one of the main domestic issues in Tunisia. In fact, the survival of governments in this country is constantly linked to their attitude toward the Islamists. In this regard, one of the main reasons for the downfall of former President Habib Bourguiba was his hostile approach to Islamic parties and groupings in the country. Following Bourguiba's removal and Ben Ali's accession to power, promises were made about creating a liberal political atmosphere and granting freedom to various political parties, especially the Islamists, but any practical measures toward this end have yet to be taken.

The Tunisian Government's promises have not materialized and, in many cases, the exact opposite has been done. With the policy of granting freedoms thus at a standstill in Tunisia, it is feared that clashes between the people and the government will increase and the country's officials will be confronted with serious dangers.

In addition, the arrests and detention of Tunisian Muslims at a time when the sentiments of regional Muslims have been inflamed by the presence of the foreign forces in the region can create mounting tension. Some political observers believe that one reason for the recent arrests, in addition to the enhanced Islamism among the Tunisian people, is the possibility of an outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf. The Tunisian Government wishes to act preemptively to undermine the position of the country's Islamic forces so that they will be unable to capatilize on any circumstances that may arise should war break out.

The Tunisian Government must adopt a suitable and logical approach to the demands of the country's Muslims. Should it fail to do so, it does not appear at all likely that the outcome will be to the present Tunisian Government's advantage.

Daily Urges India To Protect Muslim Minority

NC1101062991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Muslims in India Need to be Protected"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary of the Indian Foreign Ministry, (Muchkund Dubey) was due to arrive in Tehran early this morning. (Dubey's) two-day official visit to Tehran and his subsequent talks with the Iranian authorities is of great importance.

The talks are to be center on the recent incidents over the Babri mosque in India which led to bloody clashes between Muslims and extremist Hindus.

It can be understood from the Indian prime minister's letter to the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani that India has learned that Iran is really concerned about the plight of Muslims in India. Tehran and New Delhi have always enjoyed normal relations and Iran has always praised India as one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

During the past few years, the Tehran government has always tried not to allow the brotherly and friendly relations between Tehran and Islamabad to have any effect on its relations with New Delhi. The leaders in Iran have not allowed the level of these relations to be determined by the extent of closeness between Pakistan and Iran.

But, a serious obstacle in the way of Tehran-New Delhi relations is the plight of Muslims in India. Growth of "extremist Hinduism" in India over the past few years has escalated to such an extent that it has almost jeopardized the territorial integrity and independence of India. India, since independence in 1947, has always been proud of establishing the largest democracy in the world, something difficult for Third World countries to create.

Attention must also be paid to the axiom that democracy means "rule of the majority". It does not, can not, and should not mean overriding the minority especially if it includes "physical elimination". Any radical ethnic and religious thought can seriously put the unity and even the existence of India, a country comprising different races and a multiplicity of religions, at stake—a danger which if it happens to explode will be more difficult to control as time goes by and issues get more complicated and beyond recall. It has to be nipped in the bud.

The carelessness of previous Indian governments in not giving enough attention to and containing this canker of "extremist Hinduism" has brought things to the pass they are in today. The Indian government has a moral, political and humanitarian responsibility to do all in its power to protect its largest minority and provide it with all the safeguards against a holocaust in future. All the Muslims of the world and we in Iran expect this of the government of India.

Azerbaijani Official Urges Greater Cooperation

LD0901175991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Mustayov [as heard], deputy prime minister of Soviet Azerbaijan, today met with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati and presented a report on his trip to Iran and his visit to earthquake-stricken regions. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has acted with seriousness and firmness with regard to reconstructing earthquake-stricken regions.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the prime minister of the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, Mr. Mustayov declared that the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan

and the Republic of Nakhichevan are keen to have greater and closer cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this connection he asked that the proposals on the part of Soviet Azerbaijan regarding economic cooperation be implemented as soon as possible.

Mr. Besharati also pointed to the very close and extended relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR and said that within the framework of these relations we call for close contact in all areas which are of interest to the Islamic Republic and to Soviet Azerbaijan, especially in the economic sphere. After the visit by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow and Baku, we saw a greater expansion of relations with that Muslim inhabited Republic in the Soviet Union. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fond of the people of Soviet Azarbaijan, and declared that we are brothers. The Islamic Republic of Iran has considered as positive the views and proposals of Soviet Azerbaijan for economic cooperation, and has accepted some of these undertakings.

'Extremists' Trying to 'Disturb' Ties With UK

LD1001002191 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, despite the fact that more than three months have passed since diplomatic ties between Iran and Britain were renewed, and the two countries reopened their embassies in one another's capitals, the restoration of ties by the Islamic Republic with Britain continues to be vehemently opposed by the extremist faction.

Since the very beginning of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's flirations [moghazeleh] with the British Government, the extremists began to disturb relations between the two regimes by their insistence on the death sentence on Salman Rushdie, the author of *The Satanic Verses*, on the continued imprisonment of Roger Cooper, the British merchant who has been living for close to five years in Evin Prison on charges of espionage, and also on the release of Mehrdad Kowkabi, the Hezbollahi element related to the Islamic Republic.

It seems that according to secret agreements between the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the British Government, it was agreed to let the Khomeyni fatwa on Salman Rushdie be forgotten and also to release Roger Cooper, but nothing was said on the fate of Mehrdad Kowkabi, who has been in British jails for more than one year.

That point has once again given the extremists a chance to bring the policies of the Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i faction on seeking closer with the West under intense fire. It was with the intent of profiting from such a situation that two days ago a group of students belonging to the Islamic societies of the universities, attached to the extremist wing, gathered in front of British Embassy in Tehran. Raising the fatwa of Khomeyni on the execution of Salman Rushdie and insisting on its implementation, they also demanded the unconditional release of Mehrdad Kowkabi.

Meanwhile, amid the situation, Ahmad Khomeyni went to meet the members of Kowkabi's family, who have been staging a sit-in in front of the British Embassy for the past four months. Expressing sympathy with them, Ahmad Khomeyni warned the heads of Britain and said that if they failed to release Mehrdad Kowkabi, they would be confronted with the violent reaction of the Muslim world.

In any case, these moves—especially the hostile positions adopted by the extremists at the Majles at the beginning of talks between the government of Rafsanjani and Britain on the restoration of ties, and also their recent statement that ties between the two countries must not be restored so long as Mehrdad Kowkabi is not released from jail—explain the fact that the extremists, finding themselves cut off from the Assembly of Experts and many other decisionmaking organs intend to direct their anger and criticism toward points which they feel are among the weaknesses of the government of Rafsanjani within the regime of the mullahs. As such they hope to rouse the Hezbollah ummah against the rival faction. [passage omitted]

Though it is too early to make any judgment, it seems the extremists in the Majlis intend to intensify the difficulties and the serious shortages in the spheres of health and treatment in order to criticize the performance of the Rafsanjani government during the past 18 months, a government which began its term by giving rosy promises. [passage omitted]

Yet, it does not seem that the situation prevailing in the country and conditions at home and abroad will allow the extremists to place insurmountable barriers in the way of the programs of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, including the expansion of ties with the West. The next round of factional struggle must also be viewed through the intensification of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. The worsening situation of the Persian Gulf, at least so long as it continues until the end of the Security Council deadline, may have an influence on the array of forces within the regime, as well as the methods of their confrontation. Such an influence may well be a determining factor.

President Chairs Meeting on Public Sector Economy

LD1001001291 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The Supreme Administrative council had a meeting today chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and with the participation of other members.

At this meeting, in connection with the law concerning the first economic, social and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in order to ensure the participation of the members of the public in all affairs, increasing the efficiency of government departments, reducing the existing surplus manpower in the state

sector, and reducing government expenditure, all government departments were told to carry out necessary studies to hand over various affairs to the private sector. Government departments were told to present their proposals for the areas of work which can be delegated and how this can be done, within a maximum period of three months to the state organization for administrative and employment affairs.

It was also decided that in order to provide necessary guidance and studying the proposals which have been presented, a headquarters should be set up in the state organization for administrative and employment affairs; so that after the proposals have been studied they can submit the results to the Supreme Administrative Council.

The state organization for administration and employment was also given the task to provide necessary means for the correct and complete implementation of this resolution with the cooperation of radio and television and other mass media.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Communists Warn King To Stay Within Constitution

BK1001094991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 9 (AFP)—The chairman of the newly-formed United Nepal Communist Party (UNCP), Mana Mohan Adhikari, said Wednesday his party would strongly oppose any attempt by the monarchy to deviate from its constitutional role.

Addressing a crowded press conference to explain the UNCP's political objectives, Mr. Adhikari said: "We have politically agreed to honour the constitutional monarchy so long as it acts within its purview."

Mr. Adhikari said his party would call on Nepalese to take to the streets if King Birendra deviated from his role as enshrined in the new Constitution, promulgated November 9 last year.

"World history has proved that whenever the movement of people versus monarchy is launched it is the people who have always been victorious," he added.

The UNCP was formed when two major factions of the Nepal Communist Party decided to merge on Tuesday.

Mr. Adhikari said the factions had agreed to merge in bid to unify the Nepal's divided leftist groups.

"Since 1960 our efforts were to get united among the leftist force and move forward to fulfill our political objectives," Mr. Adhikari said.

"We have now been successful to merge at least two of the communist factions to create" a major communist party, he said.

"We will welcome any leftist groups or leftist individuals who come forward ... The door of the UNCP is always open," he added.

Credit Agreement Signed With India

BK0201170091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1659 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 2 (AFP)—Nepal and India have signed an agreement making 350 million Indian rupees (17.15 million U.S. dollars) in standby credits available to Kathmandu, a Finance Ministry source said.

The agreement was signed by India's ambassador to Nepal, Shreenivas K. Sinha, and Nepal Rastra Bank (Central Bank) Governor Hari Shanker Tripathi, the source said.

Visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Promises Aid

BK1001104391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 10 (AFP)—Finland expects to give some 100 million dollars in development aid to Nepal over the next four years, according to initial figures, Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio said.

Mr. Paasio's comments, carried by Nepal state radio Thursday, were made at a dinner here in honour of the Finnish minister, who arrived Wednesday for a four-day visit.

Nepal was one of the main recipients of Finnish development aid in grant form, Nepal state radio quoted Mr. Paasio as saying.

"The annual disbursements in recent years were around 20 million U.S. dollars and the indicative planning figures for the next four years amount to approximately 100 million U.S. dollars," he said, expressing satisfaction at development cooperation between Finland and Nepal.

"The fact that we in Finland could contribute to some extent to your development programmes gives a particular, concrete substance to our mutual relations," Mr. Paasio said.

"Nepal for us in Finland is a country of inspirations from her ancient and rich civilization, the birthplace of Lord Buddha and the holy Himalayan sites of Hinduism," he said.

Finland had followed with admiration "the rapid and profound social, economic and political changes" in Nepal, he said.

Nepalese Finance Minister Devendra Raj Pandey said he was confident Mr. Paasio's visit would help

strengthen existing friendly ties between Nepal and Finland and improve mutual understanding.

"Both our governments have shown a common desire to further expand our relations for the mutual benefit of our people," Dr. Pandey said.

Interim Prime Minister Begins Election Campaign

BK0201162791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 2 (AFP)—Nepalese Interim Prime Minister and Nepali Congress Acting President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai left on a nine-day domestic election tour Wednesday to launch his party's campaign, a party source said.

The tour included visits to Janakpur, Jaleswor, Malangawa, Birttamod in eastern Nepal, the source said.

Mr. Bhattarai told party workers before his departure that a party of the "standing and stature" of the Nepali Congress did not need to align itself with other political groups in the elections.

The premier said Nepal's Communist movement had been hit by the upheaval in Eastern Europe, while the Nepali Congress appeared weak but could withstand "the high tide of the rough sea," he said.

The Nepali Congress, which formally registered with the election commission (EC) for the polls Sunday, is a partner in the interim government which also includes leftist groups.

The interim government came into being last April 1990 after almost seven weeks of bloody protests against the partyless Panchayat system.

An EC spokesman said election preparations were in the final stages and the polls could be held by the end of April this year.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Ensures Security of Foreigners

BK1001162791 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 8

[By Mujtaba Akhter]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 9—Prince Minister Nawaz Sharif Wednesday assured Pakistan-based foreign nationals his government's fullest protection against any possible trouble due to the current situation in the Gulf.

Peace and security would be ensured to every individual as it was the prime job of his government, he said.

Mr. Nawaz was answering newsmen's questions who wished his comments on the report of "voluntary departure" of the U.S. embassy officials.

The Prime Minister said he was not aware of any reported departure of the U.S. officials. All he can say is that there is nothing to worry about as his government is supposed to protect life and property of every individual. The Prime Minister wished the diplomats and their families to feel secure as their security and protection was the government's responsibility.

The embassy official when contacted told THE MUSLIM that would be unfair to say that the embassy staff had been compelled to pack up for Washington. The fact was that only those wishing to leave voluntarily would be allowed to go back. No one was persuaded or forced for such departure, the official said.

Asked how many American families have given their consent for the departure, the official said the embassy has yet to finalise the list of those departing shortly. The official dispelled the impression that only the families and children would be leaving for Washington. All those who offered their names would be welcome.

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Robert Oakley, Tuesday chaired a meeting in which he offered facilities for repatriation to the embassy staff.

Meanwhile, according to our Karachi Bureau, more police have been deployed outside the U.S. consulate as a precautionary measure.

The deployment of police force at the consulate has been made due to the ever increasing tension in the Gulf.

UN Envoy Demands Total Nuclear Test Ban

BK1101094991 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has demanded the conversion of the pact on the partial ban on nuclear installations into a total ban. Addressing a two week conference on the 1963 pact banning nuclear weapons tests in space, upper space, and the ocean, Pakistan's representative Ahmad Kamal has said the stand adopted by his country for nonproliferation of atomic weapons is comprehensive in every aspect. We wish that the current stance to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms be made effective and stable. Ahmad Kamal has said the regional aspect of the issue of arms control is already there. On the global level, Pakistan supports the signing of a nuclear test ban treaty immediately. At regional level, Pakistan has welcomed the steps for the establishment of nuclear free zones to keep various areas free from nuclear weapons. He said Pakistan has taken several steps to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Urges Unconditional Negotiations

BK1001164491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has called upon the government to declare

total cease-fire and start negotiations without any precondition. In a statement issued from London, the LTTE said that it would continue to observe the cease-fire with an indefinite timeframe. The militants have also denied the accusations of cease-fire violations as alleged by the Sri Lankan Government.

Meanwhile, 14 political parties are meeting President Mr. Premadasa in Colombo to decided whether to continue the cease-fire. The seven-day old cease-fire is to expire at midnight tonight.

Parties Request Cease-Fire Extension

BK1101035091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 11 political parties have requested the Premadasa government to extend the cease-fire by a week. The appeal was made to the president last night at a meeting in Colombo convened to determine whether to continue the cease-fire. A formal announcement by the government for the extension of the suspension of the offensive operations against the LTTE is being made today. The seven-day old cease-fire agreed to by the Sri Lankan Government expired at midnight last night.

Operations Against LTTE Resumed

BK1101113491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1019 GMT 11 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's security forces resumed offensive operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] this morning and stormed and destroyed enemy bunkers.

The suspension of offensive operations was called off by the government effective midnight Thursday, after President Premadasa reviewed the situation.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that first reports stated enemy bunkers and other positions were being attacked and in an operation at Pandikulam on the Vavuniya-Jaffna Road a bunker constructed by the LTTE during the ceasefire was destroyed, while several others were under attack. The LTTE, which suddenly reneged on the Sri Lankan Government after year long peace talks and launched a wave of wanton attacks on police stations and military positions last June 11, shocking everyone including the international community, was taking a severe beating from the Sri Lankan military when it suddenly called a unilateral ceasefire effective midnight December 31, 1990.

The government responded with a seven day ceasefire of offensive operations.

But, official sources said, the LTTE declared ceasefire was only a ploy for a breathing space for its bedraggled cadres to ready themselves for fresh attacks and another attempt at a grand terrorist deception. But, this time it has failed miserably.

The LTTE committed 34 ceasefire violations from December 31 to January 10 including major attacks on four military bases, abduction and killing of civilians and the killing of one soldier.

Ten LTTE cadres were killed as the military retaliated when its positions were attacked.